PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

SESSION 2008–2009

**COMPRISING PERIOD
1 June 2009—12 June 2009**

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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(FORMED BY THE RT. HON. GORDON BROWN, MP, JUNE 2007)

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1 June 2009

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 1 June 2009

TREASURY

State of the Estate (2008)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): Today the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) and I have placed copies of the report on the "State of the Estate in 2008" in the Libraries of both Houses. This report, required by the Climate Change Act 2008, provides an assessment of the efficiency and sustainability of the Government's civil estate. This is the first time that Government have reported in such a comprehensive way on the performance of the estate. The report will be published on an annual basis.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Zimbabwe (Resettlement Scheme)

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): Further to the statement laid on this issue on 23 February 2009, the first five eligible applicants to take up the Government's resettlement scheme for vulnerable and older British people in Zimbabwe arrived in the UK this weekend. They will resettle permanently near to their family or friends in the UK.

The cross-Government scheme, which is being co-ordinated by the Department for Communities and Local Government, was opened three months ago to help a small group of British people in Zimbabwe who are 70 and over or who are vulnerable because of their care needs or medical conditions but are unable to make their own arrangements to resettle in the UK. The British embassy is not advising British people to leave Zimbabwe and continues to provide a full range of consular services to those who remain.

The scheme was developed with the active involvement and support of individual local authorities, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, housing associations and charities.

To date, there has been steady interest in the scheme. As at 26 May, we had received 61 applications for resettlement under the programme.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I made clear, publicly, on 25 May, we strongly condemn the nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). This action was wrong, misguided, dangerous, and a clear breach of UN Security Council Resolution 1718 (2006). It will undermine prospects for peace on the Korean peninsula and do nothing for North Korea's security. By carrying out this test in the face of united efforts by members of the international community to bring peace and security to the Korean peninsula, North Korea will find itself even more isolated and scorned by the international community. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell) expressed our strong condemnation of the nuclear test to the DPRK ambassador to London on 25 May, and will meet him again today to underline our concerns.

North Korea's action in conducting this nuclear test represents a clear challenge to the security of neighbouring countries, and to international security. It also gives rise to further concerns about proliferation. DPRK's actions since 25 May in testing short-range missiles and threatening to end the Armistice Agreement of 1953 are provocative and aggressive.

In conducting this nuclear test, the DPRK authorities have chosen to ignore not only the Security Council's demands but also the repeated warnings from many Governments, including the UK, to desist from provocative actions. The six-party talks process offers a forum for discussion of legitimate issues between the countries involved. But North Korea has walked away from these talks. They remain the right vehicle for the long-term goal of ensuring stability on the Korean peninsula. In the meantime we support active steps to contain the danger.

The UN Security Council has already issued a very clear statement of condemnation and opposition to the nuclear test. The UK is now working with Security Council partners to develop a tough new resolution imposing sanctions, which will increase the pressure on DPRK following previous resolutions.

If North Korea is to take its rightful place within the international community, it needs to respect international norms, abide by its international obligations as set out in successive UN Security Council Resolutions and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, end its aggressive policies towards its region and the rest of the world, and engage constructively with international partners, including through the six-party talks process. The Government and people of North Korea have much to gain from such re-engagement with the international community.

The nuclear test also highlights the critical importance of revitalising the non-proliferation treaty and securing entry into force of the comprehensive test ban treaty. The international community needs to demonstrate that it does not tolerate proliferation of this sort.

PRIME MINISTER

Committee on Standards in Public Life

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have appointed David Prince CBE as a Member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The appointment is effective from today and is for three years in the first instance.

Surveillance Commissioners

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): In accordance with section 91 of the Police Act 1997, I have agreed to re-appoint the right hon. Sir Christopher Rose as Chief Surveillance Commissioner and the right hon. Sir Charles Mantell as a Surveillance Commissioner from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

I have also agreed to appoint the right hon. Sir William Gage as a Surveillance Commissioner from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2012. He succeeds Sir Charles McCullough in this role.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 2 June 2009

DEFENCE

Met Office (Key Performance Targets 2009-10)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): Key performance targets have been set for the chief executive of Met Office for financial year 2009-10. The targets are designed to drive continued improvements in the agency's performance and are as follows:

KPT 1. Forecast Accuracy: To achieve at least three out of the four following forecast accuracy measures.

a. To maintain the forecasting skill, using the UK numerical weather prediction index, to 117.0

b. Improve the forecasting skill, using the global numerical weather prediction index, to 138.1

c. More skilfully predict whether precipitation will occur at approximately 150 Met Office observing sites, to achieve a skill score of at least 0.267.

d. To achieve the UK cities automated temperature index of at least 0.666.

KPT 2. Business Profitability: To achieve a business profitability target on a newly agreed basis of £5.3 million.

KPT 3. Return on Capital Employed: To achieve a return on capital employed of at least 3.2 per cent. in line with Treasury requirements of achieving at least 3.5 per cent. averaged over the period 2009-10 to 2013-14.

KPT 4. Support to wider HMG Goals: To deliver the outputs of the customer supplier agreements (CSA) for public weather services, Defence and DEFRA within the tolerances agreed with the customers and defined in the CSAs.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (Performance Targets)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The key targets have been set for the chief executive of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) for the financial year 2009-10. They provide customers with an assurance that, as well as focusing on maintaining high quality services in the delivery of pay, pensions and compensation claims, SPVA will continue to give high priority to customer service and increased efficiency.

Target 1—To Deliver Timely Service Pay. To make 99.9 per cent. of all pay payments by the due date.

Target 2—To Deliver Accurate Service Pay. 98.3 per cent. of all service pay to be 100 per cent. accurate, excluding errors caused by inaccurate external inputs.

Target 3—To Deliver Timely Pensions and Compensation Decisions. Overall reporting against key target 3 to be weighted by the achievement of the sub-component measurers below:

a. *Armed Forces Pension Scheme*. To make 99.3 per cent. of all service pension payments by the due date.

b. *Armed Forces Compensation Scheme*. 98 per cent. of all decisions within 40 working days[1] except for high priority cases[2] where 95 per cent. will be cleared within 20 days[3].

c. *War Pension Scheme*. To clear claims for war pensions within 52 working days average clearance time, including 19 days average clearance time for widows pensions.

Target 4—To Deliver Accurate Pension and Compensation Decisions and Payments.

a. To deliver an overall target of 98 per cent. of all service pensions accurately.

b. To deliver 99 per cent. of service pensions accurately.

c. To deliver compensation and war pension claims with a financial and decision accuracy of 98 per cent[4].

Target 5—To Achieve an Overall Customer Satisfaction Average of 80 per cent. Satisfied or Very Satisfied, with not less than 70 per cent. in any one segment.

The SPVA customer segments are:

a. Corporate Customers.

b. HR Professional Users.

c. Self Service Online Users.

d. Veterans.

Target 6—To Ensure a Seamless Transition from Current Contract to Interim Contract.

100 per cent. of transition programme milestones met.

[1] Within the specified number of working days from receipt of required external evidence (predominantly medical evidence).

[2] Priority cases are those involving or likely to involve injury at tariff level 8 or above.

[3] Within the specified number of working days from receipt of required external evidence (predominantly medical evidence).

[4] Includes +/-£10 materiality tolerance.

UK Hydrographic Office (Key Performance Targets 2009-10)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): Key performance targets have been set for the chief executive of UK Hydrographic Office for financial year 2009-10. The targets are designed to drive continued improvements in the agency's performance and are as follows:

KPT 1—Safety: While aiming for 100, to achieve a safety index of 95 or higher.

KPT 2—Defence: To deliver the defence hydrographic programme achieving an index rating of 95 or higher while transitioning to a multi-year service definition annex incorporating incentivised pricing.

KPT 3—Finance: Achieve a return on capital employed of 9 per cent. on a three-year rolling basis.

KPT 4—Efficiency: To achieve at least 75 out of 100 against 10 targets which together reflect a measure of organisational excellence.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

"Novel Materials in the Environment: The Case of Nanotechnology"

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): I am pleased to announce the Government's response to the twenty-seventh report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution "Novel Materials in the Environment: The Case of Nanotechnology", which was laid before Parliament on 11 November 2008.

We welcome the report of the Royal Commission which has already made—and will continue to make—an invaluable contribution to our thinking on the management of emerging novel technologies, such as nanotechnology.

The Government response will be laid before Parliament today. Copies will be available in the Vote Office.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will meet on 8 and 9 June. The Health and Consumer Affairs part of the Council will be taken on 9 June.

Items on the main agenda are: patient safety, including prevention and control of healthcare associated infection; rare diseases; a progress report on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare and a discussion on the pharmaceutical package, which contains three separate dossiers.

Ministers will be asked to adopt draft Council recommendations on both patient safety and rare diseases. The patient safety recommendation aims to make patient safety and the prevention and control of health care associated infections a priority in member states public health objectives. The rare diseases recommendation will improve the codification and classification of rare diseases and will aim to improve the exchange of expertise on rare diseases, and hence, enable more effective treatment of rare diseases in the United Kingdom and other European Union countries. The recommendation also encourages more EU level research on rare diseases.

There will also be a progress report and discussion on a proposal for a directive of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. The draft directive focuses on codifying ECJ case law on patient mobility and clarifying the rights of patients, together with how member states health systems can manage patient mobility in a sustainable way.

Also tabled for discussion is the pharmaceuticals package. There are three dossiers under this package:

a proposal for a directive regarding the prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of medicinal products falsified in relation to their identity;

a proposal regarding pharmacovigilance of medicinal products for human use; and

a proposal concerning information to the general public on medicinal products for human use.

Both the proposals on patients' rights and the pharmaceutical package are currently being negotiated in Council working groups.

Over lunch, the presidency will chair an informal ministerial discussion on the health security related matters, including influenza.

Under any other business, there will be information from the presidency on the implementation of the United Nations convention on the rights of people with disability and a progress report on a directive on standards of quality and safety of human organs intended for transplantation. There will also be information from the Danish delegation on ingredients in tobacco and information from the Swedish delegation will provide information on the work programme for their forthcoming presidency.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

African Development Bank (Second Joint Strategic Framework)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Ivan Lewis): Today 2 June 2009, I am publishing the second Joint Strategic Framework for the engagement of the Governments of the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, and Portugal with the African Development Bank. This framework sets out how the UK and its fellow constituency members will work with the African Development Bank to improve its effectiveness over the next three years to 2011. It replaces Joint Strategic Framework 1 (2006-08).

This Joint Strategic Framework is written at a time of great opportunity but also of great challenge for the African continent. Overall economic performance in most African countries has been good, but progress towards the millennium development goals still needs to accelerate. The global financial crisis has introduced new pressures and uncertainties.

Slower global economic growth, more difficult credit conditions, and changes in the international aid architecture pose additional challenges to which the African Development Bank will need to respond. At the same time, the bank must be better able to deal with the longer-term challenges facing Africa, including climate change, development in fragile states, gender equality, ensuring that private sector growth has positive benefits for the poorest, and helping countries in Africa work and trade together.

In addition to the three-year objectives on bank effectiveness set out in the Joint Strategic Framework, the UK has several specific objectives for the African Development Bank over the next 12 months.

Response to the financial crisis

The financial crisis is impacting on Africa, with commodity prices down, remittances falling, and private investment flows slowing. The bank has a key role to play in Africa's response, and to help countries deal with the challenges they are facing. In particular we will work with the bank over the coming year to:

Enable it to meet additional demand for lending during the crisis. We expect demands on the bank's finances will increase during the crisis, and we are committed to ensuring the bank has the resources it needs to deliver its mandate for all members.

Change policies that limit the impact of the bank's response, especially removing the cap on the proportion of bank funds that can be used for budget support.

Fragile states

Fragile states experience huge poverty and human development problems. In these countries, the millennium development goals are most off-track with extreme poverty, and child and maternal deaths three to four times more prevalent than in other developing countries. The African Development Bank's £400 million fragile state facility is an important instrument that the bank can use in fragile states. We will work with the bank this year to:

Establish effective bank programmes in all countries receiving funding under the fragile states facility.

Decentralisation

As the 2005 Paris declaration on aid effectiveness said, developing countries must set their own strategies for poverty reduction. To support this, the African Development Bank is decentralising its staff from the headquarters to bank offices around Africa. The bank has made good progress establishing a large number of field offices in recent years, but these offices need to be strengthened with the right expertise, and given an appropriate level of delegated authority. This year we will work with the bank to:

Complete the decentralisation process in 15 countries, with 15 fully-staffed country offices operating effectively with appropriate delegated authority.

Results

Effective development organisations need clear objectives, and must be able to benchmark and demonstrate progress against achieving them. The African Development Bank now has a single results system for all its operations, but the system is still being bedded in, and in some cases baselines against which progress can be measured still need to be established. We will work with the bank over the coming year to:

Establish results frameworks in all bank country strategies.

Ensure Bank management reports every six months on its performance indicators.

A copy of the Joint Strategic Framework will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 3 June 2009

DEFENCE

Repatriation Policy

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The Ministry of Defence has recently amended its policy for the repatriation of deceased service personnel from operational theatres. Henceforth, all servicemen and women who die on operations overseas will be afforded a ceremonial repatriation, regardless of the manner of their death.

Under a strict application of the previous policy, only those personnel 'killed in action' or who 'died of wounds' acquired as a result of enemy action qualified for a ceremonial repatriation. The policy for all other fatalities suffered in operational theatres was that while they would be repatriated with all due dignity, any ceremony would be reserved for a military funeral if the family requested one.

However, it has been our recent practice to ensure that all fatalities from operational theatres are afforded a ceremonial repatriation unless their families expressly request otherwise. This best meets the expectation of families of deceased personnel, the services and nation; that those who die while serving their country on operations, whatever the actual circumstances of their death, should be honoured on their return. It is therefore right and proper that we ensure our policy is brought in line with what is a wholly appropriate practice.

There are no plans to amend the policy for the movement of deceased personnel within the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council will be held in Luxembourg on 4 and 5 June 2009. My noble Friends Admiral Lord West and Lord Bach, and the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill, will attend on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues will be discussed at the Council:

The Council will start in Mixed Committee with Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein, during which Ministers will be asked to adopt Council conclusions on the future direction of the second generation of the Schengen Information System. These conclusions propose that the development of SISII continues on the basis of the current SISII platform with stronger project management in place and milestones to assess progress. The conclusions propose a contingency plan based on a SIS I platform be retained until tests defined in the project milestones are successfully completed.

Ministers will also be asked to adopt Council conclusions on a co-ordinated EU approach to the closing of the Guantanamo Bay detention centre. The UK supports the draft Council conclusions believing them to be clear and not tying any member state into receiving ex-detainees, whilst providing a framework for those that do. The UK has already taken 14 ex-detainees, either British nationals or individuals previously legally resident in the UK. There is one UK resident remaining in Guantanamo and the Government are committed to securing his release. The UK will not be accepting additional detainees.

The presidency will provide an update on the implementation of the regulation establishing the Visa Information System (VIS). The UK does not participate in this regulation.

After the Mixed Committee there will be a political debate on the asylum package to take forward development of the common European asylum system. This package consists of five asylum proposals recently published by the Commission: the Asylum Reception Conditions Directive, Dublin and Eurodac Regulations, the European Asylum Support Office and European Refugee Fund. With the exception of the Reception Conditions Directive, the UK has opted-in to all of these measures. The UK will outline its vision on what the EU should be doing on asylum and encourage further in-depth discussion on the direction of the proposals.

The Commission will present a progress report on the development of guidelines, due to be published in July, on the implementation and application of the Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC). The UK is working with the Commission to ensure the guidelines will allow member states to deal with individuals who abuse the right to free movement. The UK will also use this opportunity to stress the importance of free movement issues in the future Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) work programme (Stockholm programme).

The Council will discuss key issues around combating illegal immigration in the Mediterranean, focusing in particular on work with Libya. The Government recognise the significance of these immigration flows and support strong EU co-operation on this issue. This discussion will continue over lunch.

The Council will then receive a presentation from the EU counter-terrorism co-ordinator Gilles de Kerchove on the implementation of the EU strategy and action plan to combat terrorism, progress made over the last six months and priorities for the future.

The presidency will then update the Council on four EU external relations meetings held recently: the ministerial troikas EU-US and EU-Ukraine; EU-Russian Federation JHA permanent partnership Council and the recent conference held in Prague on building migration partnerships.

Under any other business, there will be a presentation by the Commission, at Slovenia's request, on the state of play concerning visa liberalisation in the western Balkans.

Justice Ministers will be invited to consider two proposed regulations providing mechanisms for negotiation and conclusion of bilateral agreements in the area of civil and family law, where there is external Community competence. These regulations are in principle welcome, although the Government would have preferred the regulation concerning choice of law to be wider in scope.

The presidency will present draft conclusions on the common frame of reference on contract law. These assert, among other things, that the common frame of reference should be a non-binding "toolkit" for legislators. The Government agree with this approach and can accept the proposed conclusions.

Ministers will be informed about the first reading deal on ship source pollution agreed with the European Parliament on 5 May.

The presidency will seek Council endorsement of the final report on the fourth round of evaluations of the practical operation of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW). This follows mutual evaluations of how each member state has implemented the framework decision. The UK welcomes the importance the report places on addressing the issue of proportionality in the context of the EAW

There will be a discussion of the new proposed framework decision on combating sexual abuse and exploitation of children (repealing Framework Decision 2004/681/JHA). The Government broadly welcome this proposal, and will be seeking to improve it during negotiations. The presidency will report on negotiations on the proposal for a framework decision on preventing and combating human trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims (repealing Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA). The Government welcome this framework decision, recognising the importance of adopting a co-ordinated EU-wide approach, and will seek to promote a balanced approach between prevention, enforcement and victim support, in order to ensure measures are most effective.

There will also be a state of play report on the work on European e-justice during the Czech presidency.

The presidency proposes to provide information about implementation of the resolution made under the French presidency on training of judges.

Under any other business, information will be provided on the recent conference on succession and wills, on the follow up to the discussion during the April Justice and Home Affairs Council on the financial crisis, on the free trade agreement between the EU and the Republic of South Korea, and on a project called "Beyond Winning" undertaken by the ADR centre in Rome. Slovenia will provide information about its chairmanship of the Council of Europe.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Topical Debates

The Leader of the House of Commons (Ms Harriet Harman): *To Note*: The list includes all requests and whether they have been submitted on the floor of the House, by letter, e-mail or another method. Weeks where there were no such requests are not included.

Week commencing 2 February 2009

"Planning for Adverse Weather Conditions" (Business Questions)
"Adverse Weather" (Business Questions)
"National Dementia Strategy" (Business Questions)
"Adverse Weather" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 9 February 2009

"Free Pensioner Travel" (Business Questions)
"Pensioners and Savings" (Business Questions)
"Public Sector Pensions" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 2 March 2009

"Child Poverty" (Letter)
"Sudan" (Business Questions and E-mail)
"Public Sector Broadcasting" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 9 March 2009

"Child Poverty and the Economy" (Letter)
"Local Media and the Recession" (Business Questions)
"Local Media and the Recession" (Business Questions)
"Child Poverty" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 16 March 2009

"Child Poverty and the Economy" (E-mail)
"Hospices" (Business Questions)
"Asbestos" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 23 March 2009

"Charitable Giving and Hospice Care" (Business Questions)
"Surface Water Charges" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 30 March

"UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (Letter)
"Tourism" (Business Questions)
"EDM 1182 on Manufacturing" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 20 April 2009

"Sri Lanka" (E-mail)
"Sri Lanka" (Telephone)

Week commencing 4 May 2009

"Child Protection" (Business Questions)
"Learning and Skills Council Funding" (Business Questions)
"Prison Sentences" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 11 May 2009

"Climate Change" (Business Questions)
"The Economy" (Business Questions)

Week commencing 18 May 2009

"Pakistan" (Business Questions)

During this period there have been the following Topical Debates:

"Sri Lanka" on 5 February 2009
"Local and Regional News" on 19 March 2009
"Sri Lanka" on 14 May 2009

In addition the topical debate on Thursday 4 June will be "The Economy: Supporting Business".

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 4 June 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr. Gareth Thomas): My noble Friend the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting , Lord Carter of Barnes, has made the following statement:

The following statement provides the agenda items for which BERR has responsibility at the forthcoming Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecoms Council) in Luxembourg on 11 June 2009. Andy Lebrecht (Deputy Permanent Representative in Brussels) will represent the United Kingdom.

The only substantive item on the agenda is an exchange of views regarding European network and information security policy. To guide the exchange of views, the Czech presidency has issued a paper, ahead of the Council which includes asking the Ministers three questions. The first is what the medium to long-term aims of a strengthened network and information security policy at EU level will be while the second and third relate to the future of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).

This work has various strands, including the recently published Commission's recent communication on "Critical Information Infrastructure Protection" (CIIP). I recently placed an explanatory memorandum (EM €375/09) with both Houses on this communication. This communication was also recently discussed at a ministerial conference on CIIP in Tallinn in April, which proposed that the content of the communication and the conclusions of the conference should be discussed at the next TTE Council.

This is unlikely to be a controversial agenda item. Regarding the UK's interventions, we will welcome the opportunity to debate this essential issue, and will be suggesting that the community needs to be clear on what it wants to achieve in network and information security policy terms. We will be seeking to establish principles that lead to a policy that can deliver measurable benefit and add to, rather than subtract from the ICT sectors's ability to drive through growth and recovery.

Regarding ENISA, we will say that it is too early in the debate to say whether we still need an agency. First, we need to establish the policy priorities and then asses the extent to which they can be achieved through an agency and whether this represents value for money.

Finally on this agenda item, overall, the UK is generally supportive of the projected work plan set out in the Commission communication on CIIP and believes that the closer collaboration with industry, and the increased drive to achieve preparedness so all member states are capable and prepared to respond to an emergency is extremely good news.

This will be followed by two items under "Any Other Business" which are "Internet of Things—An action plan for Europe and Information from the Commission" and "Ministerial Conference—Safer Internet for Children (Prague, 20 April 2009),—Information from the Presidency".

The former item will see the Commission present a short paper entitled "Internet of Things—An Action Plan for Europe—Information from the Commission". This paper lays out the challenges that this subject brings, if Europe is to realise its ambitions in this space. The paper also mentions that the Commission will publish a communication on the subject in the coming weeks. This will also present an opportunity for presidency and Commission to report on the recent conference in Prague on the "Future of the Internet", at which among other issues, the "Internet of Things" was discussed.

The second item will be a readout by the presidency regarding their conference on safer internet for children that took place recently in Prague. The end result of the conference was the adoption of the Prague declaration by all member states entitled "New European Approach for Safer Internet and Children", the aim of which is to see enhanced co-operation by all stakeholders across Europe, which will lead to for safer use of the Internet by children. The Department for Children, Schools and Families led on this conference.

There is unlikely to be a debate on these two issues and therefore we do not plan to intervene.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): On Friday 5 June I am launching a DEFRA/DECC consultation on Government guidance on how organisations should measure and report on their corporate greenhouse gas emissions.

Copies of the consultation document, guidance and a regulatory impact assessment will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The consultation document sets out the rationale for Government intervention, how the guidance was developed and seeks views on it and the impact assessment. The consultation will close on 7 August 2009. Stakeholders will continue to be involved throughout the consultation period.

The consultation package will also be available on the DEFRA website at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/greenhouse-gas/index.htm

Responses to this consultation will be reviewed and final guidance published by 1 October 2009 to comply with the requirement of section 83 of the Climate Change Act 2008.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Independent Monitor Report

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I have today placed in the Library a copy of the report by Mrs. Linda Costelloe Baker, the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal, covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2008. A copy is also being made available on the UKBA website (http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/independentmonitor/imparliamentaryreports.) together with UK Border Agency's response to the Independent Monitor's recommendations.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for this report based on the 904 sample cases which she has reviewed for the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, and the 578 cases reviewed during her monitoring visits to visa issuing posts during the period April to September 2008.

In the covering letter to this, her final report, Mrs. Costelloe Baker notes that Visa Services Directorate recognises the need to "spend the next year concentrating on the basics...and paying attention to feedback". This will be UKBA's main focus for 2009-10. Mrs. Costelloe Baker describes the overseas visa operation as "the most constructive organisation" she has ever worked alongside, with "enthusiastic, energetic staff whose commitment to doing a good job means that they have sought, welcomed and thrived on straight talking and external scrutiny".

Mrs. Costelloe Baker makes a number of constructive recommendations as to how the UK Border Agency can continue to improve. Key themes to pursue are:

The accuracy of data capture.

The attention to evidence in the decision-making process.

Promotion of consistency in the application of the new Immigration Rules relating to deception (paragraphs 3207 A and B).

The appearance and quality of refusal notices.

Complaint and correspondence handling procedures.

Global implementation of IM recommendations.

The development of a constructive working relationship with the chief inspector of the UK Border Agency.

The UK Border Agency welcomes these comments and is keen to use these recommendations to drive up the quality of its service to customers while maintaining a high level of immigration control.

I wish to record our thanks to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for the work and effort she has put into producing this her sixth and final report as Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal.

Home Office Annual Repport

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): We will publish the Home Office's 2009 Departmental Report on 5 June. Copies will be available in the Vote Office and on the Home Office website. The report describes the work of the Home Office during 2008-09, in particular as reflected in its strategic objectives.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council will be held on 8 June 2009 in Luxembourg. I will represent the UK.

The first and main item of the agenda will be preparation of the June European Council. This will include a policy debate on the employment implications of the economic crisis, messages from the 7 May employment summit and a Commission communication for the June European Council. The communication to be published the week before EPSCO will propose an update of EU actions and priorities on the impact of the global downturn on employment.

The next item will be political agreement on employment guidelines. A general approach on the employment guidelines under the Lisbon strategy was agreed at the March 2009 EPSCO. Following a European Parliament opinion, these will be for political agreement ready for formal adoption at a future Council. The next item on the agenda is political agreement on a proposal which will extend social security rights to third country nationals, including those who have never worked. The UK is not taking part in this proposal.

The Council will also seek adoption of Council conclusions on flexicurity in time of crisis. Flexicurity policies are seen as increasingly important as part of the strategy to help labour markets in the current downturn. This will be followed by Council conclusions on social services as a tool for active inclusion. The measures addressed are largely already in train and there are no direct implications for the UK. There will also be Council conclusions on active and dignified ageing. Active ageing is a Czech presidency theme, and a necessary policy in light of the demographic time bomb. Finally there will be Council conclusions on inclusion of Roma. These have been drafted in the light of the first meeting of the integrated European platform for Roma inclusion in April 2009 which discussed a set of common basic principles on Roma inclusion. The UK Government welcome all the conclusions.

The Council will also receive presidency reports on progress in negotiations on three draft directives: pregnant workers; anti-discrimination; and equal treatment between men and women engaged in a self-employed capacity.

Under any other business, there will be information from the Commission on a report by the high level group on disability presenting an update of the progress made by each MS towards ratification and implementation of the UN Convention. In addition, the Commission will report on the impact of free movement of workers in the context of EU enlargement. There will also be information from the Polish delegation giving details of an informal ministerial working group meeting which I attended in Radziejowice, Poland on 18-19 May 2009. This meeting discussed how best to face the economic crisis. There will also be information on conferences held under Czech presidency.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 8 June 2009

TREASURY

Saving Gateway

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): HM Treasury is today publishing further research, carried out by Ipsos MORI, on the second pilot of the Saving Gateway.

The Saving Gateway is a cash saving scheme, which aims to kick-start a saving habit among working age people on lower incomes, and to promote financial inclusion. The Government announced last year that the Saving Gateway will be introduced nationally, and that the first accounts will be available in 2010. The Saving Gateway Accounts Bill is currently before Parliament.

The Saving Gateway has been piloted twice, and both pilots have been independently evaluated. Ipsos MORI were also commissioned to undertake further research on the second pilot, following up participants around two years after their Saving Gateway had matured, in order to explore longer-term changes in saving behaviour and attitudes. This research is being published today, and has been placed in the Libraries of the House and is available on the HM Treasury website.

The research shows that 60 per cent. of participants were still saving regularly two years after the pilot ended. And three in ten participants were not saving regularly prior to taking part in the pilot, but were doing so at the time of the further research. Participants were also very positive about the Saving Gateway: 98 per cent. said they would open another Saving Gateway account if offered the chance, and 99 per cent. would recommend it to a friend.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council (28 to 29 May 2009)

The Minister for Business (Mr. Pat McFadden): The EU Competitiveness Council took place in Brussels on 28-29 May 2009. The then Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs represented the UK on the morning of 28 May, covering the then BERR agenda items on EU Industry Policy and the EU Small Business Act. In the afternoon session, Andy LeBrecht of UKRep Brussels represented the UK for the BERR agenda item on EU Better Regulation and the then BERR AOB items. The following is a summary of those discussions.

For the first substantive agenda item, the Commission presented a paper on EU industry policy, which was agreed after a long, wide-ranging discussion among member states. The Commission proposed an integrated approach to a competitive and sustainable industry policy for the EU and emphasised the importance of industry and small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to the European economy. In discussion, it was agreed that the EU should avoid protectionism and promote competitiveness. The Minister supported this and also highlighted the need for the EU to move towards a low carbon economy and for the simplification of red tape for business as much as possible. In addition the Minister also called for the European Investment Bank to increase its lending to viable businesses by 50 billion Euros over the next 2 to 3 years.

The Commission also presented an update on the implementation of the EU Small Business Act (SBA) set of measures to assist SMEs which was adopted in 2008. Progress on the three priority SBA areas was reviewed (improving SME access to finance, providing a supportive regulatory environment, and enhancing market access). In discussion the Minister emphasised the need for implementation of these priority areas and endorsed the Commission's proposal to allow member states the option to adopt less burdensome accounting requirements for micro-entities (companies with ten or fewer employees).

In the afternoon the Council presented conclusions on EU better regulation and its proposals to reduce administrative burdens on EU businesses by 30 billion Euros, which would mostly help SMEs. In the discussion there was broad agreement among member states that better regulation would help avoid unnecessary burdens on business. The UK representative supported thorough impact assessments to avoid additional costs on business from new measures and also called for action on simplification and reduced administrative burdens. The UK also again expressed our support for less burdensome accounting requirements for micro-entities.

On the Any Other Business Points, the UK representative supported full harmonisation across the EU on the proposed consumer rights directive and also for consumers to retain the right to reject faulty goods. Other AOB points were agreed without discussion on the European private company statute, Transatlantic Economic Council, the role of tourism in the economic crisis, Lisbon strategy post-2010, outcomes of the informal ministerial Council and Swedish EU presidency priorities (which will be the EU Internal Market, better regulation and financing, eco-innovation, SMEs, research and innovation and Lisbon post-2010).

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth and Culture Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Barbara Follett): A meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Council was held on 11-12 May. The Scottish Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution, Michael Russell, represented the UK for the cultural and audiovisual agenda items taken on 12 May.

The Council adopted the conclusions on culture as a catalyst for creativity and innovation which draw the link between culture and the Lisbon objectives and also reflect the role of creativity in responding to the economic crisis.

The Council held a draw to select the two member states which will each recommend an expert to sit on the selection panel and the monitoring and advisory panel for the European capital of culture initiative for the period 2010-12. Luxembourg and Romania were selected, with the assistance of the Council Legal Service. These two member states are expected to propose their candidates for Council experts before the end of June 2009 in order for the Council to officially nominate these experts at its November meeting.

The Council adopted a decision designating the cities of Guimarães (Portugal) and Maribor (Slovenia) as European capitals of culture 2012.

The Council also adopted a decision designating Košice (Slovakia) and Marseille (France) as European capitals of culture 2013.

There was an exchange of views on the presidency paper on creative content online. The Commission were keen to learn about member states' approaches to legislating online content and their ideas for future EU action. Most member states, including the UK, agreed that EU action would add most value where it ensured the exchange of good practice, particularly on intellectual property issues and the fight against piracy. The UK intervened to welcome the discussion on content online and give examples of domestic good practice, in particular the digital Britain and creative Scotland initiatives.

Under Any Other Business, the presidency gave reports on the conference held on the responsibilities of content providers and users and the forum for creative Europe. The presidency also provided Ministers with information on the MEDIA Mundus programme. The Greek delegation informed member states of the inauguration of their new Acropolis Museum due to take place in June 2009. The German delegation, supported by Austria, France and the Netherlands, expressed concern about the new Google Books initiative.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Forensic Science Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): The Forensic Science Service Ltd, formerly an Executive Agency of the Home Office, was vested as a Government-Owned Company (GovCo) in December 2005. My predecessor my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) set out in a written ministerial statement of 29 March 2006 the criteria to be applied in considering whether to maintain the status of a GovCo or to change it to that of a Public-Private Partnership. These criteria were, in order of importance:

The needs of the UK Criminal Justice System

The state of the UK Forensic Science Services marketplace

The needs of the Forensic Science Service

The needs of the Home Office as shareholder

We have considered carefully the criteria set out by Andy Burnham in his statement, which continues to underpin our approach to status change. He made clear that not all the criteria could be judged clearly at any one time and that a decision had to be taken in the round. He committed that no decision would be taken until summer 2007 and that he would share it with Parliament. In the event, it has not been appropriate to make any further announcement as it has been clear that the developing nature of the UK forensics market meant that the criteria for change have not been met in the ensuing years. The Criminal Justice System continues to be served by the FSS and its competitors. The UK forensic science market continues to develop, albeit at a slower pace than originally envisaged, and the police service is now engaged in a series of competitive tenders which will put the delivery of forensic services on a clearer contractual footing. GovCo status has provided a suitable platform on which the FSS can transition to a commercially effective and robustly competitive organisation.

The FSS is now about to embark on a major transformation programme, with the support of the Home Office shareholder, and I judged that the time was right to inform Parliament of our current plans. Since vesting, and in particular throughout 2008, the FSS has analysed the emerging market in order to clarify the scale of transformation required to reflect its reduced share of the overall market and to optimise its commercial potential. That thinking has been crystallised in the production of a strategic business plan, details of which were presented to the Home Office in December and, after rigorous consultation with HM Treasury, that has now been approved. On Monday 8 June, the FSS embarks upon formal consultations with its staff in which it will set out its intentions to move to a new business model, delivering the same integrated service, more quickly and efficiently, with a reduced but more targeted work force, and potentially working from a reduced estate. The full details remain subject to the conclusions from the consultation.

The future status of the FSS has been a matter of interest to the House generally and to some hon. Members in particular. I want therefore to make clear that we have decided that there will be no change of status for the FSS for the foreseeable future. That will give sufficient time for the FSS to complete its transformation plan and provide more evidence of the operation of the commercial market in forensic science. In recognition of the House's continued interest in this key component of our criminal justice system, the original commitment to share any decision to change the status of the company remains in place.

JUSTICE

Boundary Commission for England (Appointment)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I should like to inform the House that I have made the following appointment under Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986:

The Honourable Mr Justice Sales appointed as Deputy Chair of the Boundary Commission for England, effective from 1 June 2009 until 31 May 2012.

National Offender Management Service (Drug Strategy)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): Tackling drug issues remains a key priority for Government. In the last 12 years prison drug treatment funding has risen year on year and now stands at over 13 times that of 1997. In this time drug use in prison, as tested by random mandatory drug tests, has fallen by 63 per cent. In the community the use of drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) has also risen, with courts using them in over 16,000 community orders in 2007-08. Now we need to look at the next steps.

In the 2008 drug strategy "Drugs: protecting families and communities" the Government announce that the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) would develop a new NOMS drug strategy to complement the national strategy and provide a framework for responding to drug misuse among offenders.

I am today announcing the publication of the NOMS drug strategy, which draws together the broad range of actions that NOMS and its partners in the public, private and third sectors are taking to build upon the considerable progress we have made in tackling offenders who misuse drugs. This includes:

continuing to improve the quality of prison drug treatment by further rolling-out the integrated drug treatment system across the prison estate; and

increasing the provision of wings within the prison estate where prisoners who are committed to leading drug-free lives can gain the extra motivation and support that they need.

The strategy also builds on the progress we have made in implementing the recommendations in the Blakey report, "Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons", published in July 2008. I will report to the House shortly on progress with this report.

Addressing drug misuse among offenders is a vital component of NOMS' wider vision to protect the public and reduce re-offending, not only by carrying out the punishments ordered by the courts, but also by addressing the causes of criminal behaviour, and helping rehabilitate and resettle offenders into law abiding lives.

Copies of the strategy and its supporting documents will be placed in the Library of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Civil Legal Aid

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): My noble friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Lord Bach) has made the following written ministerial statement.

"Members of the public who receive civil legal aid for a money or property dispute, and who succeed in obtaining a financial benefit from their case, are required to repay their legal aid costs, so resources can be recycled to help others.

If someone is unable to repay their legal aid costs immediately, these can be postponed as a statutory charge on their property. Where charges are postponed against property, persons are not obliged to make any repayments, or to repay the charge in full until their financial circumstances change, or the property changes hands. However, in order to encourage clients to repay their postponed charge where they can, the charge accrues 8 per cent. simple interest. Although the interest rate on postponed legal aid charges is entirely separate from the bank rate, the Government have been considering whether the existing interest rate should be changed.

The Government have decided that the interest rate should remain at 8 per cent. simple. The simple interest which accrues on the legal aid charge is entirely different from the compound interest charged by commercial institutions. For an average statutory charge which is repaid after seven years, 8 per cent. simple interest is approximately equivalent to 5.3 per cent. compound interest. We consider that this compares favourably with other commercial alternatives, particularly for the majority of clients who receive legal aid, who could be charged high compound interest rates by commercial lenders.

There is also no requirement to make regular repayments against the charge, unlike commercial products. Funded clients will also benefit from lower legal costs, as their lawyers will have been paid at controlled legal aid rates, which will significantly reduce their legal costs. Taking all of this into account, we consider that the charge should remain at 8 per cent. simple interest to encourage those who can repay to do so. This is important because when legal aid charges are repaid, this money is recycled to provide legal help for others. For example, lowering the simple interest rate by half could deny civil advice to 30,000 people per year."

Crown Court Means Testing Central Funds Reform

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement.

"In October 2006, the Government introduced a means testing scheme for legal aid for defendants being tried in the magistrates' courts. Since then, net savings of over £80 million have been delivered. Following a consultation process, the Government now intend to fulfil their stated commitment to extend means testing to defendants and appellants appearing in the Crown Court.

The consultation exercise began on 6 November 2008, and concluded on 29 January 2009. Ministers have been considering their proposals in the light of that exercise. A response to consultation and impact assessment on Crown Court means testing is today being published by the Ministry of Justice. These documents are accompanied by a separate, but associated, response to consultation and impact assessment on reforming payments from central funds to acquitted defendants.

Copies of the responses to consultation and impact assessments in respect of both Crown Court means testing and reforming payments from central funds have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office."

TRANSPORT

London and Continental Railways

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made the following ministerial statement.

"I am today announcing a financial restructuring of London and Continental Railways Ltd (LCR). This is a further step toward this Government's stated intention to complete the restructuring and sale of LCR and its assets, following the enactment last year of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (Supplementary Provisions) Bill. The financial and operational restructuring of LCR's interests in the high speed line to the Channel Tunnel and in Eurostar operations will establish these businesses on a commercial basis, with the aim of delivering the best return for the taxpayer from previous significant public investment.

As part of this restructuring LCR is transferring ownership of its finance subsidiaries, which together are liable for £5.169 billion of debt in the form of bonds and securitised notes, to the Government. This debt is already supported by a range of Government guarantees. Separately, the Government are purchasing, for a nominal sum, the shares of LCR, taking it into direct Government ownership. The Government have held a special share in LCR since 1999 which has given them a wide range of controls over the company. LCR and its liabilities are already accounted to the public debt; consequently, there is no change to existing public borrowing requirements.

LCR owns HS1 Limited, the company which operates St. Pancras International Station and the high speed line to the Channel Tunnel. It also owns the UK's interest in the Eurostar international joint venture and a range of property development interests.

These are successful businesses.

LCR managed the construction and commissioning of the new railway, St Pancras and the other stations, and the substantial associated land development and regeneration projects. It did so on time and within budget and remains the right vehicle and management to drive through the next phase of the High Speed 1 project.

High Speed 1 is Britain's first high speed railway, and first new railway for over 100 years. It provides fast international connections and starting this year will see the introduction of high speed commuter services from Kent. It is an essential component of our rail capacity plans for London and the South East and also of the Olympic transport network. It has the capacity and potential for freight, international and domestic service growth. Performance on the line currently averages at five seconds infrastructure delay per train—world class standards.

Thanks to the opening of St Pancras and the new line, Eurostar last year carried a record number of passengers—over nine million—a 10 per cent increase in passenger numbers. It has a market share of over 75 per cent on the London Paris and London Brussels routes. This success in attracting passengers away from short-haul airlines has saved an estimated 40,000 tonnes of carbon over the last two years. It is the pre-eminent international passenger train operator.

This success has been enabled by substantial public investment, represented in the debt now held by LCR and its subsidiaries and which is already underwritten by the Government. The Government therefore want to see the taxpayer benefit from the value which has been created in these companies, as well as realising further benefits to passengers in terms of more and new products and services.

This was signalled in the statement made by the then Secretary of State for Transport in March 2006 when he said:

"The Government's objective will be to ensure continuing value for taxpayers' money, including the successful delivery of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the continuing safe and efficient operation of Eurostar."

On 14 May this year the Government received state aid clearance from the European Commission to undertake a financial restructuring of LCR. In announcing its approval, the Commission said:

"The operation notified by the United Kingdom involves public support mainly in the form of debt cancellation and puts in place a sustainable financial structure for the high-speed rail link...It will benefit competition and users in view of the forthcoming liberalisation of international passenger transport by rail in 2010."

The Commission also said that it: "...regarded positively the unbundling of operation and infrastructure activities and the future significant reduction of access charges."

The purpose of the restructuring is to separate HS1 Limited and Eurostar from their past construction liabilities. This will enable HS1 Limited to charge a commercial rate for access to the line and thereby attract more trains and a wider choice of operators. Being charged a proper market rate also offers Eurostar the best chance to develop its customer products and services on a sustainable commercial basis. It is for this reason that the Government have taken separate ownership of the finance subsidiaries currently within LCR that hold these past liabilities. This recognises the existing underwriting by Government of these debts and will see the cancellation of all the associated guarantees and future liabilities from Government to LCR and its operating subsidiaries.

Doing so returns considerable value to LCR and its operating subsidiaries. The Government are determined that value accrues in full amount to the taxpayer. The simplest and most direct way of securing this is for Government to take ownership of LCR, making comprehensive the extensive rights already held in the company by virtue of Government's existing special share.

With the completion of this restructuring, the next step will be to prepare for the sale of a long-term concession in High Speed 1, the value of which will be used towards offsetting the public investment made in the construction of the railway. It is the Government's intention to proceed with the sale of this concession as soon as the necessary contractual and regulatory structures are put in place in support of the future operation of High Speed 1 independent of Government and LCR and as and when market conditions allow.

In parallel, the Government are discussing the future of the Eurostar joint venture with our international partners in order to determine the best future strategy for the business: one that capitalises on past success; offers the best opportunity for sustainable future development; and properly reflects the full value of the UK contribution.

As well as leading these negotiations on the part of Government, LCR will continue to manage the development of its substantial property interests, the value of which will be realised on a case-by-case basis, at a time which reflects the best balance of value and risk to the taxpayer."

WORK AND PENSIONS

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): I am delighted to announce that later today the UK will ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York. In addition, we aim to start the parliamentary process for ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention shortly.

There are an estimated 650 million disabled people in the world, including over 10 million in the UK. The UN Convention is a powerful and explicit statement that they have—and must be able to enjoy on an equal basis—the same human rights as others. The Convention is therefore a very significant landmark, both for disabled people and for Government and society as whole.

Ratification of the Convention is further demonstration of the Government's commitment to equality of human rights for disabled people, and of our determination to achieve equality by 2025.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 9 June 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Trade Credit Insurance Top-up Scheme

The Minister for Business (Mr. Pat McFadden): My noble Friend the First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Lord President of the Council has made the following statement on the Trade Credit Insurance Top-up Scheme.

"From today eligibility for the scheme will be backdated for those firms who have had their credit limits reduced since 1 October 2008. These businesses are now eligible for six months' cover providing they meet the other eligibility criteria set out previously.

Secondly, from today customers of HCC International Insurance Company plc will be eligible for policies under the Government scheme. Brokers and clients should contact HCC International Insurance Company plc in the first instance in order to apply for the scheme.

Further information can be found at the Business Link website, www.businesslink.gov.uk/creditinsurance ."

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Problem Gambling

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): I have had a number of discussions with the gambling industry in which they have now assured me that they will provide £5 million each year as a minimum commitment over the next three years to fund gambling research, education and treatment. The Chair and trustees of the industry fundraising body (the Responsibility in Gambling Trust—RIGT) working with Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL) and the other trade bodies are publicly committed to over-achieving the minimum sum of £15 million over three years and have set out credible plans to do so. They have secured significant corporate backing already.

The trustees of the new commissioning body—the Responsible Gambling Fund (RGF)—are satisfied that the assurances given to them by the Trustees of RIGT are sufficiently robust to allow them to develop three-year funding programmes. This will enable RGF and service providers in the field to plan sensibly. I also saw a successful transition to the new structures for underpinning the strengthened voluntary arrangements as critical. I am pleased that there has been an appropriate transfer of undertakings to the new commissioning body and agreement by the fund's trustees to a shared executive to support both the Strategy Board and the RGF.

It is my and the Strategy Board's firm expectation that the new shared chief executive role will be advertised shortly and the post filled by the autumn.

This is not a decision that we have come to lightly. However, on the basis of the assurances provided by the industry and on the funding agreement that has been reached between RIGT and RGF, I have decided to announce that we will not need to introduce a statutory levy.

With all three elements in place, the Strategy Board, under the expert chairmanship of Baroness Julia Neuberger, will have the industry commitment and resources to be able to do the job that it was set up to do. I look forward to the board's initial report in the autumn on what the strategy and priorities should be.

We recently completed a consultation on how a statutory levy would be implemented. That consultation made it clear that any levy would take full account of any voluntary payments made up to the point of introduction. I make that point to reassure those who have committed themselves to making the voluntary system work that, if they are let down by less public spirited competitors and I am forced to resurrect the idea of a levy, those who have contributed will benefit from their contributions—not the reverse.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Dairy Farmers of Britain

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I wish to inform the house about the problems affecting Dairy Farmers of Britain. PricewaterhouseCoopers were appointed as receivers and managers of Dairy Farmers of Britain Limited (DFOB), the agricultural milk co-operative, on Wednesday 3 June 2009. This followed an invitation by its directors to DFOB's Bank, HSBC, following a prolonged period of operational and financial restructuring during which they closed down several plants and members' debts were converted into shares. Their major contract to supply fresh milk to the Co-operative Group was not renewed and was due to end on 1 August.

For customers, employees, dairy farmer members and ex-members, hauliers and other supplying businesses, this has been very unwelcome news, and many of them will have lost significant sums of money.

I would like to pay tribute to the way in which all parties affected by the collapse of DFOB have worked together to try to minimise the immediate impact. The employees of DFOB have worked hard over the last few days, including the weekend, to ensure that arrangements have proceeded smoothly. The Receiver has, with the chair of DFOB's Member Council, held three meetings around the country to inform farmer members of the situation and their plans. He is, with the support of DFOB's bankers, HSBC, continuing to trade: farmers who remain with the business will receive a payment for their milk in the middle of this month and again at the end. The level of payment will depend on the price the Receiver can realise for the milk produced. He has not held farmer members to their contracts and I understand approximately half of DFOB's milk volume has moved to other buyers already, representing about a third of their members. He has also, through the hauliers, continued to collect milk from those remaining with the business.

I would also like to thank the industry as a whole for the constructive way they have worked together to try to ensure that the complex supply arrangements between DFOB and other businesses continue to operate smoothly. DFOB and NFU have set up helplines; farmers should not feel pressurised into signing up to contracts with alternative buyers that they might regret.

At the time of the Receiver's appointment DFOB employed around 1500 people, and had about 1800 farmer members. It supplied over 1 billion litres of milk a year, representing slightly under 10 per cent. of UK production. Its business was in Wales and England, with no farmer members or businesses in Scotland or Northern Ireland. Since 3 June the Receiver has sold Lubborn creamery in Somerset and negotiations are in place for other plants including Llandyrnog creamery in north Wales.

I have been in contact with the chairmen of the North West Development Agency and One North East to discuss how they can provide support and advice, in particular in relation to the Blaydon dairy and DFOB farmers in Cumbria and Northumberland. I have also written to the British Bankers' Association, and the Agricultural Industries Confederation, to ask their members to consider any short term cash flow problems faced by members sympathetically. Farmers facing credit difficulties can also discuss with Business Link their eligibility for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme and can contact HMRC's Business Payment Support Service—which may enable them to defer any payments due to HMRC such as taxes (PAYE, VAT, income or corporation tax) and national insurance.

DEFRA officials met yesterday with the Receiver, the chair of DFOB's Member Council, representatives from the Government Offices, the Regional Development Agencies and the insolvency service. The Receiver and officials have agreed to keep closely in touch on developments and on his plans for the remaining businesses. Officials have also kept in close touch with Dairy UK as the trade body representing the industry, and with the NFU. Through all parties working together I hope that we can minimise the short term impacts on the industry and individuals, and maximise the chances of finding buyers for the remaining businesses, giving more certain long term prospects to farmers, employees, and other dependent businesses. But there remain difficulties in assisting all of them.

I will update the House as necessary.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have today placed copies of the final report of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland on the effectiveness of the section 75 equality duty in the Libraries of the House.

The duty under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 is an important mechanism for encouraging public authorities to place equality considerations at the heart of policy-making. This report highlights the positive impact that section 75 has had over the past decade, and offers a helpful reflection on how effectiveness could be developed to encourage greater equality of opportunity for all in Northern Ireland.

I commend the Equality Commission for their valuable contribution to pursuing equality of opportunity and I look forward to receiving proposals from them on how best to take this work forward through guidance to public authorities.

TRANSPORT

Correction to Parliamentary Answers

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I wish to provide clarification to the House with regard to the consolidated answer I gave on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1124W, concerning the installation of warning signs for overhead cables and the risk assessment carried out prior to their installation on the A64 York to Scarborough road.

Prior to the installation of the marker posts no assessment of risk to road users from overhead electric cables was carried out.

The reason for the installation of the marker posts was not based on ensuring road user safety per se, but to warn road maintenance operatives, and the emergency services, of the presence of overhead cables, especially during the hours of darkness or poor weather conditions.

South Central Franchise

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made the following ministerial statement.

"I have announced today that Southern Railway Ltd (a subsidiary of GoVia Ltd) has been awarded the South Central franchise.

The new franchise will begin operation on Sunday 20 September 2009. The franchisee will last for five years and ten months, with the final year dependent on the franchise achieving agreed target performance. It will be possible for the franchise to be extended by up to two years, at the Department for Transport's discretion.

The new South Central franchise will provide a premium of £534 million net present value over the core five years ten month franchise length.

Bids were also received from NedRailways South Central Ltd (NedRailways Ltd), NXSC Trains Ltd (National Express Group plc) and Southern Trains Ltd (Stagecoach Group Plc).

The new franchise will provide additional capacity at peak times (linked to the Network Rail programme of platform lengthening) delivering a key element of the high level output specification in relation to London. In addition the franchise will provide more services such as enhanced late evening weekday frequencies (and weekend frequencies in south London), later last trains on Friday and Saturday nights, additional late night Brighton to Worthing services and hourly Sunday Brighton to Southampton services.

By December 2013 the new operator will provide 158 additional vehicle arrivals into London in the morning peak (a 14 per cent. increase), 172 additional vehicle departures London in the evening peak (a 16 per cent. increase) and eight additional vehicle arrivals-departures into-from Brighton in the morning-evening peaks (24 per cent. increase).

The Department will continue to limit annual rises of regulated fares in line with national policy, which is currently RPI+1 per cent. Furthermore, individual regulated fares for the 2010 fare rise are capped at RPI+1 per cent. This policy applies whether July RPI is positive or negative. As with all franchises, unregulated fares will be the responsibility of the operator.

The new franchise sets a public performance measure (PPM) target of 93.1 per cent. to be achieved by March 2014 with improvements in delay minute and capacity targets over the franchise. This compares with the current performance of 89.6 per cent. PPM as at the end of April 2009.

A key element of the franchise is the delivery of a number of major infrastructure projects including platform lengthening, east London Line and Thameslink. The franchise is drafted in such a way to facilitate the delivery of these projects.

Alongside the Department's access for all and national stations improvement programmes, the franchise will enhance 34 stations. Seven stations (Brighton, Haywards Heath, Hove, Lewes, Redhill, Three Bridges and Worthing) will undergo a major refurbishment as part of the showcase station project, with further station enhancements to be carried at another 27 stations.

At least 1,000 extra car parking spaces and 1,500 additional secure bicycle spaces will be provided and every station across the network will be cleaned and refreshed.

The Government have also required the operator to set targets for passenger satisfaction and provide additional investment if these are not achieved.

All stations and trains on the South Central network will be fitted with CCTV by June 2011. Secure station accreditation will cover 95 per cent. of footfall across all stations including almost all south London stations and there will also be an increase in British Transport police presence across the franchise improving security.

New gatelines will be installed at an additional 22 stations on top of the 14 south London stations being gated prior to the franchise commencement with these staffed for longer to increase security and reduce ticketless travel.

There will be an increase in staffing at stations across south London to ensure stations are staffed from first to last service on each operational day (except four stations and on Boxing Day) and all stations across the franchise will maintain or increase customer-facing staff presence."

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 10 June 2009

TREASURY

Valuation Office Agency

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I have today set the following key performance indicators for the Valuation Office Agency for 2009-10:

Customer Satisfaction

To achieve overall customer satisfaction within the top 15 per cent. of public sector comparators.

Operations

To enable prompt issue of correct bills by local authorities through clearing all reports, for council tax and business rates within an average of 10 working days.

To determine 95 per cent. of housing benefit claims without an inspection in three working days.

To enable prompt issue of tax assessments by clearing all HMRC initial appraisal cases for inheritance tax within an average of six days and for capital gains tax within an average of nine days.

To contain reductions in the 2005 rating lists to a maximum of 4.2 per cent. of the total compiled list rateable value, over the entire life of the lists.

To ensure that 96 per cent. of new council tax bandings are right first time.

To review for local housing allowance purposes 25 per cent. of broad rental market areas.

To achieve income from non-statutory services of at least £17.5 million.

Value for Money

To improve overall value for money on local taxation work by 3 per cent a year.

To improve value for money on inheritance tax work for HMRC by 5 per cent.

People

All staff to have the core skills and competencies for their role within six months of taking up post.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Subsequent to my statement of 9 December 2008, HM Revenue and Customs has completed its "framework review" of the Valuation Office Agency and this is published today. I have placed a copy in the Library of the House, along with the revised Agency Framework Document. These can also be found at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/consult/voa-review-09.pdf

DEFENCE

Defence Science Technology Laboratory

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): The following key targets have been agreed with the chief executive of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory for the FY2009-10.

DSTL

KT1—Quality

Deliver high quality outputs that have impact on Dstl's MOD customer's 12 benchmark programmes.

KT2—Cost and timeliness

Satisfactorily deliver at least 90 per cent. of all projects that complete in the financial year 2009-10 to time and to budget.

KT3—Customer satisfaction

Maintain the current high level of overall satisfaction with Dstl level of service, with at least 93 per cent. of project feedback responses achieving a score of seven or above for overall satisfaction.

KT4—Capability

Using independent and authoritative experts agreed with the MOD CSA, Dstl will complete a benchmark assessment by external peer review of the national and international standing of 10 key capability groups in areas where Dstl leads the work for MOD with a view to obtaining "strong" assessments for at least seven out of the 10 groups and no "development needed" assessments for any of the 10 groups.

KT5—Financial Performance

Achieve an average return on capital employed (ROCE) of at least 3.5 per cent. over the period 2009-10 to 2013-14.

KT6—Efficiency

Deliver ongoing efficiency savings associated with the iLab programme and other initiatives in line with the corporate plan for 2009-14.

This will be demonstrated in the short term by delivering the budget loss before interest for 2009-10, while controlling indirect costs and charge rates to customers. Specific targets are:

Corporate indirect cost not to exceed 35.7 per cent. of net income.

Achieve the budgeted loss (£2.3 million before interest) while maintaining an average charge rate that is no higher than 2007-08 in real terms; that is, no higher than £64.3 per hour.

KT7—Organisational Excellence

To embed sustainability and responsible management of information into Dstl's business ethics by:

Reducing our total generated waste by at least 5 per cent. by the end of 2010.

Reducing energy-related carbon dioxide emissions from buildings on our core sites by 15 per cent. by the end of 2010.

Establishing travel plans that reduce Dstl's carbon footprint including reducing single occupancy commuter journeys to core sites by an overall 7 per cent. by October 2009.

Establishing certificated environmental management systems compliant with ISO 14001:2004 at a second Dstl site by March 2010.

Reviewing and improving the condition of all individual areas within the Dstl estate that maybe classified as areas of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) by 2010.

Receiving assurance from internal and external audit that Dstl is operating in accordance with the current Cabinet Office requirements for managing personal and other information.

Defence Support Group

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): The following key targets have been agreed with the chief executive of the Defence Support Group for the FY2009-10.[1]

DSG

KT1—Quality

Deliver an improved quality performance by achieving fewer than four attributable major customer concerns within DSG's air business and reducing upheld customer complaints within the land business by 5 per cent. against the 2007-08 out-turn.

KT2—Financial Performance

To achieve at least a 3.5 per cent. return on capital employed.

KT3—Business Transformation

Realise the benefits approved by the DSG Trading Fund Board in the DSG transformation plan.

KT4—Efficiency

Improve overall efficiency by at least 12 per cent. against the baseline established for DSG on formation.

KT5—Delivery

Meet delivery targets as agreed with the customer:

(a) Air business—to achieve 95 per cent. of customer programmes;

(b) Land business—to meet customer agreed targets for delivery schedules on critical programme lines (94 per cent. September 2009, 94 per cent. December 2009, 97 per cent. March 2010) and land load tasks (92 per cent. June 2009, 92 per cent. September 2009, 92 per cent. December 2009, 92 per cent. March 2010).

Police and Guarding Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): Key targets for 2009-10 have been set for the chief constable/chief executive of the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency (MDPGA). These targets are linked to the delivery of the agency's key outputs and providing an effective policing and guarding service.

In brief the seven key targets are:

Key Target 1a—By 31 March 2010, to have delivered at least 95 per cent. of MDP agreed UK customer tasks.

Key Target 1b—By 31 March 2010, to have delivered at least 95 per cent. of MGS agreed UK customer tasks.

Key Target 2a—To maintain or improve an MDP customer satisfaction rate of 88 per cent. (the level achieved in 2008-09).

Key Target 2b—To maintain or improve an MGS customer satisfaction rate of 85 per cent (the level achieved in 2008-09).

Key Target 3—By 31 March 2010, to have achieved a detection rate of at least 55 per cent. for crime that significantly impacts on defence capability.

Key Target 4—By 31 March 2010, to have achieved all agreed international tasks.

Key Target 5—By 31 March 2010, to have agreed with TLBs new joint business agreements in which tasks match available resources.

Key Target 6—By 31 March 2010, to have raised the diversity excellence model baseline score for the agency to 390 points (from 355 points).

Key Target 7—By 31 March 2010, to deliver specified outputs within 1 per cent. of authorised out-turn.

TRANSPORT

EU Transport Council (11 June 2009)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Mr. Sadiq Khan): I will attend the second Transport Council of the Czech presidency which takes place in Luxembourg on 11 June.

The Council will be asked to adopt a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Georgia on a comprehensive air transport agreement. The UK supports this negotiating mandate.

There will be a progress report and policy debate on a proposal for a regulation on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport. The UK intervention will set out UK views on the scope of the directive and on its liability provisions.

It is expected that the Council will be asked to reach a political agreement on a proposal for a regulation concerning a European rail network for competitive freight. The Government believe that the changes negotiated in Council working group address all the UK's key concerns with the Commission's original proposal. We should therefore actively promote agreement now, so as to bank the achieved negotiating objectives, thereby avoiding the real possibility of the text regressing at future negotiations.

There will be a progress report on a proposed amendment to Regulation (EC) 1321/2004 on the establishment of structures for the management of the European satellite radio-navigation programmes. The Government support the Commission's aim of amending this regulation, given the substantial changes that have been made to the finance, governance and procurement procedures for Galileo since the original regulation was adopted. From a legal perspective any inconsistencies have to be addressed.

There will also be a progress report on the proposal for a directive laying down the framework for the deployment of intelligent transport systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other transport modes. I intend to thank the presidency for its report. The UK position remains that we are supportive of the objectives of the action plan, but do not believe that the Commission has made a sufficiently strong case to implement the actions through the proposed legislative framework.

The Commission recently produced a Green Paper on trans-European networks, entitled "TEN-T: A policy review towards a better integrated trans-European transport network at the service of the common transport policy". There will be a lunch debate on this and the Council will be asked to adopt conclusions. I expect to be able to agree to the conclusions.

Under AOB, the Commission will present its recent proposal for a directive on aviation security charges. We will want to ensure that the proposal is in accord with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality and that member states' ability to impose more stringent security measures when the situation demands it is in no way restricted.

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 July 2009, Vol. 496, c. 1MC.]*

Light Dues

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): I wish to announce today light dues rates for 2009-10 and for 2010-11. I will set out the reasons why we have concluded that it is necessary to increase rates.

The Government believe that transport providers and not the general taxpayer should pay for the essential safety services needed for safe and reliable operations. For shipping, this includes the aids to navigation—lighthouses, buoys and beacons—provided by the three General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs) around the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland.

The GLAs have improved the cost effectiveness of their services in recent years through fewer ships, light vessels and lighthouses, fewer staff, reduced use of helicopters and revised working practices. Overall their operating costs have been reduced by 25 per cent. in the last 10 years, and light dues have not had to go up since 1993.

Despite these efficiency improvements and prudent management of the General Lighthouse Fund (GLF), we were facing a shortfall in funding this year of £21 million for these essential safety services. This had arisen because, since light dues were last reduced in 2006 (at the request of the light dues payers), the income from dues had not been enough to cover the spending by the GLAs. The GLF has relied on income from the investment of capital receipts generated by rationalisation to make up the difference, the credit crunch led to the returns on investment from the GLF drying up and the weak pound meant the costs of running Irish lights (in euros) had increased.

Faced with a shortfall in funding this year, we took decisive action and consulted on proposed increases in light dues to meet the GLAs' essential operational requirements. We proposed that the rate of light dues would need to rise from 35p per net registered ton (nrt) to 41p from 1 July. We also proposed raising the tonnage cap from 35,000 to 50,000 nrt so that some of the very biggest vessels would pay more and increasing the number of chargeable voyages from seven to nine per year in order to spread the impact among different categories of shipping.

It was very clear from the responses to the consultation that the shipping industry has been suffering during the economic downturn and considered that this is the wrong time to be increasing costs. We therefore looked hard at whether we could avoid or defer GLA spending or find other ways of reducing the burden on light dues payers at this difficult time without compromising safety.

I am pleased to announce that the GLAs have identified 5.6 per cent. further savings in 2009-10 and the position on GLF income is better than we had assumed at the start of the consultation. We believe that by a careful combination of revised budgets and management of the GLF, we can avoid some of the increase in dues and defer or reduce the changes which would have had the biggest impact.

We are therefore proposing a lesser increase in light dues from 35p to 39p per nrt from 1 July 2009 and putting off a further increase from 39 to 43p per nrt until 1 April 2010. Even after the second increase, the light dues rate of 43p per nrt will be no higher than it was at its peak 16 years ago, and in real terms 32 per cent. lower. The two stage changes should allow everyone to plan ahead with more certainty about next year.

We have looked again at how the burden is spread between different types of shipping. Our original proposal was to increase the tonnage cap (the maximum cargo capacity up to which the light dues rate applies) from 35,000 to 50,000 nrt so that the very biggest ships would pay more. This is fair given the continuing trend towards fewer, bigger vessels in the container and bulk sector. In recognition of the exceptionally difficult economic climate this sector is facing this year, we have however decided to reduce and defer that increase, so that the tonnage cap will rise to 40,000 nrt from 1 April 2010. We believe that the increase in the voyage cap to nine per year from 1 July 2009 is still appropriate.

We believe these changes strike a fair balance between the interests of safety and the protection of commerce. We continue to require the GLAs to identify additional savings and efficiencies.

It is, however, clear from the consultation that feelings about the funding arrangements for Irish lights are strong. We have taken the opportunity of this consultation period to consider the delivery and development of aids to navigation in the two countries. Although the present shortfall in funding was accentuated by the current exchange rate between the pound and euro, the cross subsidy of Irish lights from the GLF under arrangements agreed between the two Governments in 1985 was not the cause of the shortfall.

UK and Irish Transport Ministers have reconsidered the arrangements, which predate the foundation of the Irish state and constitute an example of longstanding British-Irish and north-south co-operation serving the mutual interests of the communities. On the basis of a recent study, we have agreed to alter the formula for apportioning Irish costs on a north-south basis. The existing 30/70 apportionment is to be replaced by 15/85 with effect from the current year, 2009-10.

We also agreed on the need for an overall assessment of the provision of the integrated aids to navigation service to all regions in the UK and Ireland. An evaluation is to be undertaken which will consider all aspects of delivery, including options for continuing increases in efficiency, potential improvements in structure and the overall arrangements for financing.

We expressed our support for the valuable work carried out by the service in both countries but stressed that we are anxious that optimum cost-effective use should be made of the resources available in maintaining safe navigation in UK and Irish waters.

In conclusion, in order to ensure that the GLAs have sufficient funds to enable them to carry out their statutory duties in respect of maritime safety and to protect the commitments of the GLF, including the pension contributions of GLA staff, it is necessary to increase light dues. Having considered all the representations I believe that it is in the interests of all parties to implement a two-stage increase in light dues that will avoid some of the immediate impact on the shipping industry at a time when they are suffering from the economic recession and downturn in trade and allow them more time to plan for future expenditure. This approach will also help the GLAs to focus on the continuing need to keep their costs to an absolute minimum consistent with maintaining safety standards.

WALES

Marine and Coastal Access Bill

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I am pleased to inform the House that the explanatory memorandum setting out proposals for the framework powers in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill are available in the Library, Vote Office and on the Wales Office website (www.walesoffice.gov.uk).

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 11 June 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Competitiveness Council, Brussels

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. David Lammy): The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council which took place in Brussels on 28-29 May 2009. The industry session of the Council took place on 28 May, and was chaired by Vladimir Tošovský, Czech Industry Minister. The research session of the Council was held on 29 May and was chaired by Miroslava Kopicová Czech Minister of Education, Youth and Sports. The UK was represented by me, both for the intellectual property items in the afternoon of 28 May, and for several research items on 29 May. The Deputy permanent representative to the European Union, Andrew Lebrecht, represented the UK when the Minister was not in attendance.

The first item that I covered on 28 May was the Community patent and single patent court. The Council discussed a progress report on these issues under the Czech presidency, and took a decision on whether to refer legal questions concerning the court's structure to the European Court of Justice. The UK advocated referring these questions to the Court of Justice as soon as possible, and urged a rapid reply from the court. Doing so would allow us to make progress on creating a more efficient, affordable and responsive European patent system, which would help boost European innovation and competitiveness.

The Council agreed to consult the European Court of Justice. This creates a good starting point for Swedish presidency ambitions for strong progress on a Community patent and single patent court.

Under any other business, Germany raised copyright and competition concerns with the Google books search service. The UK recognised these concerns, but noted that new technologies present opportunities as well as risks for copyright owners and society and a measured approach should be taken. The presidency invited the Commission to explore impacts on EU authors and propose action, if required, to protect their rights.

The Competitiveness Council on 29 May was preceded by "The Space Council" (an informal meeting of EU and ESA ministers) which discussed the importance of *innovation for the space sector* as well as how innovation in the space sector could boost European competitiveness. The Space Council agreed a resolution on this (which was subsequently formally adopted by the ESA and Competitiveness Councils). The Commission presented its proposal for a regulation providing community funding and setting up a governance structure for the initial phase of the *Global Monitoring for Environment and Security* (GMES)—an initiative to provide and pool data relating to environmental monitoring, up to now funded by EU research framework programme and ESA.

The Competitiveness Council reached a political agreement on a regulation providing a *legal framework for large-scale research facilities* supported by a number of countries (European Research Infrastructure Consortia or ERICs). All member states who had reservations on the tax exemptions point lifted them at Council. However Spain and Portugal said they intended to vote against the draft regulation as they felt an ERIC should initially be allowed to operate with only two member states (rather than needing three at all times as in the Commission's proposal).

Ministers welcomed the emphasis being placed by the presidency on evaluation and impact assessment and there was consensus on the need to strengthen evaluation and impact assessment for both European and national research funding programmes. The Council also adopted conclusions on this subject. In the debate the UK said that a much better understanding of results achieved and impact assessment were needed to allow research funding programmes to be more effectively geared towards supporting the development of the European research area, boost European competitiveness and tackle major societal challenges.

The Council also adopted conclusions on the first steps towards realising the *vision for the European research area in 2020* and on the development of the regional dimension of research infrastructures.

Under Any Other Business, the presidency highlighted its recent conference on issues relating to researcher careers and mobility. The Commission announced it planned to launch a feasibility study for a pan-European pension fund for researchers.

The Commission updated Ministers on plans to deepen European *research ties with Russia* through association to FP7 and provided an update on the *ITER fusion research project*.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Elective Home Education

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): On 19 January 2009 I asked Graham Badman to carry out a review of elective home education in England. The terms of reference for the review emphasised the Government's recognition of parents' well established right to educate their children at home. They also set out our commitment to keeping home educated children safe, and ensuring that they receive a suitable education. I am grateful to Graham Badman and the review team for conducting a thorough review which carefully considered extensive evidence provided by home educators; local authorities (LAs); and representatives from a wide range of organisations and individuals working with children and parents involved in home education.

The terms of reference commissioned Graham Badman to investigate the barriers to LAs and other public agencies in carrying out their safeguarding responsibilities; whether LAs were providing effective and appropriate support; and whether there was evidence of home education being used to cover child abuse. From this evidence, he was asked to identify whether any changes were needed to the current regime of monitoring home education.

The review makes a compelling case for substantial changes to the arrangements for supporting and monitoring home education. It recognises the wide range of philosophical and practical reasons that lie behind parents' decisions to home educate. It acknowledges that in some cases home educated children have been withdrawn from school under a range of difficult circumstances: this is reflected in the relatively high proportion of children with special educational needs who are home educated, and other cases where children have been bullied or had other experiences that leave them unable to attend school. These children and families need support from their local authorities in a way that enables them to access appropriate advice and guidance, receive specialist services, and use extended school provision and facilities such as leisure centres and libraries. The review argues for fresh thinking and further consultation with children, their families, local authorities and others involved in home education to identify ways to commission services for this very diverse sector in order to support the best possible outcomes for the children concerned.

The review also found evidence that there are a small number of cases where home educated children have suffered harm because safeguarding concerns were not picked up, or not treated with sufficient urgency, particularly where parents were unco-operative or obstructed local authority investigations. It sets out specific steps that should be taken to address these risks as well as improving the monitoring of the education provided: a compulsory registration scheme; a discretion to local authorities to prohibit home education where there are safeguarding concerns; and the right for LA representatives to interview home educated children to establish whether they are safe and receiving a suitable education. I am today launching a public consultation on these proposals so that they can be introduced to Parliament at the earliest possible opportunity.

Copies of the review and our initial response have been placed in the House Libraries.

HEALTH

Department of Health Annual Report 2009

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): The Department's annual report for 2009 (Cm 7593) was laid before Parliament today.

Copies are in the Library of the House and are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): A Justice and Home Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 4 and 5 June 2009. My noble Friend Admiral Lord West, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Security and Counter-Terrorism; my noble Friend Lord Bach, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice and Kenny MacAskill, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice, attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The following issues were discussed:

The Council, starting in Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, adopted conclusions on the future direction of the second generation of the Schengen Information System. These conclusions propose that the development of SIS II continues on the basis of the current SIS II platform with stronger project management in place and milestones to assess progress. The conclusions propose that a contingency plan based on the current SIS I platform be retained until tests defined in the project milestones are successfully completed. It was also agreed that any future decision on a move to the contingency plan would be taken by a qualified majority in the Council. The UK supported the continued development of SIS II, noting the challenge always posed by such large scale IT projects to Governments and the necessity for clear project management and milestones, as outlined in the conclusions.

The Commission then provided an update on the implementation of the Visa Information System (VIS), reminding Ministers that VIS could not start until all participating member states were ready to connect (the UK does not participate in VIS). The Commission also provided an update on the geographical deployment of VIS, noting that it would prepare a draft decision, to be presented later in June. Dates for commencement would be established by the Commission, on the basis of member states' readiness to transmit the relevant data.

Ministers adopted conclusions on a co-ordinated EU approach to the closing of the Guantanamo Bay detention centre. The conclusions put in place a framework for information-sharing to facilitate member states' acceptance of former detainees from Guantanamo Bay. The conclusions also outline that it is for individual member states to decide whether they accept ex-detainees. The Council noted that primary responsibility for the closure of Guantanamo rests with the US, but the EU should do its part to assist this process. The UK supported the conclusions, highlighting that closure of Guantanamo was a key issue not only for transatlantic relations but also for the radicalisation and recruitment of potential terrorists. Getting the message right was important in adding to the safety and security of citizens by countering extremism and the conclusions were a step forward in that regard.

After the Mixed Committee there was a political debate on the package of proposals presented by the Commission this year to take forward development of the Common Asylum System. The package includes proposals on the Dublin and Eurodac Regulations, the Asylum Reception Conditions Directive, a European Support Office and Refugee Fund. The UK has opted in to all of the proposals except the one on Asylum Reception Conditions. The Commission said that more work and discussion was needed to establish the right direction for this package and this would be taken forward at working group level. The UK outlined its vision on what the EU should be doing in this area, stressing that the key aim had to be the protection of genuine refugees, by deciding their claims as swiftly as possible, and the prevention of abuse of the asylum system by people making false claims to be refugees. External efforts were vital too: to improve protection beyond the EU's shores and tackle illegal immigration more effectively with source and transit countries.

In Council and then continuing over lunch, Ministers held a debate on illegal immigration in the Southern Mediterranean. The Commission expressed its view that the EU had to act and member states must be ready to assist each other, including through a pilot internal relocation project. The work of the EU Borders Agency (FRONTEX) work should be enhanced through a local office in the Mediterranean and more involvement on returns. Enhanced dialogue with third countries was vital too: co-operation with Libya was already delivering results. The EU needed to ensure protection was improved throughout the world; and a second Tripoli conference on tackling illegal immigration through East Africa should be held.

The Commission provided an update on the guidelines on the implementation and application of the Free Movement Directive (2004/38/EC) advising that they would be adopted on 2 July. Follow-up work would continue at expert level to help tackle abuse. The UK supported the view that these guidelines would be crucial in assisting member states and their courts to interpret the legislative framework and welcomed the inclusion of criminality and abuse of residence rights in the guidelines. The UK also emphasised the need for better monitoring, to inform future decisions on action to tackle abuse.

The EU counter-terrorism co-ordinator, Gilles de Kerchove, gave oral reports on the implementation of the EU strategy and action plan to combat terrorism, progress made over the last six months and priorities for the future. These highlighted the need to continue working closely together to maintain the momentum of co-operation at EU level. He outlined three key regions where focus was needed going forward; Pakistan, the Sahel and the Arabian Peninsula, stressing the importance of the Commission's Stability Instrument funding in supporting work in these regions.

The presidency updated the Council on three EU external relations meetings held recently between the troika of the current and incoming presidency and the Commission and the US, Russian Federation and the Ukraine. Outcomes of these meetings would continue to be discussed in relevant working parties.

Under any other business, the Commission presented a report on visa liberalisation in the Western Balkans. A full evaluation would be undertaken in July by the Commission and proposals then made. Attention was also drawn to a recent Commission communication on disaster prevention, along with a parallel communication on disaster prevention in developing countries. The communication supplemented those activities carried out at national level, by improving knowledge, creating links between stakeholders, and increasing the efficiency of existing mechanisms. Finally, the incoming Swedish presidency noted that Home Affairs Ministers would be invited to meet in October at Europol to celebrate its 10th anniversary and consider the future of EU police co-operation in the context of the next five-year JHA work programme.

On day two of the Justice and Home Affairs Council the presidency presented two proposed regulations providing mechanisms for negotiation and conclusion of bilateral agreements with third countries in certain areas of civil and family law, where there is external Community competence. The Council agreed the texts of both proposals. The UK welcomed these proposals in principle while expressing the hope that the scope of the civil law proposal would be expanded in due course.

The presidency presented the draft report on the setting up of a common frame of reference for European Contract Law, confirming that the project would create a non-binding "toolkit" for legislators.

The presidency presented their achievements to the Council on e-justice over the past six months including work on the e-justice portal and video-conferencing. The Government welcome this work and hope to see it feature as one of the priorities in the work programme in Justice and Home Affairs over the next five years.

The presidency informed the Council about the first reading deal on ship source pollution that had been agreed with the European Parliament on 5 May.

The presidency presented the final report on the mutual evaluation of the operation of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW). On behalf of the UK Lord Bach congratulated the presidency on the report, and stressed in particular the importance of taking forward work on proportionality. The EAW had been a real success; however issuing EAWs for low-level offences had significant operational consequences. The UK looked forward to work being taken under the Swedish presidency and UK officials were ready to assist.

The presidency outlined the progress that had been made during the early stages of negotiations on the Commission's proposals to combat sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking.

The presidency presented work on the implementation of the non-binding Resolution on Judicial Training, aimed at improving the training of judges in EU law and legal systems.

The presidency reported on the recent conference about succession and wills held in Prague in April. It had been successful in gaining a clearer view of all the issues related to succession and wills in a European context. The Commission expects to bring forward a proposal during the Swedish presidency.

Under any other business, the presidency drew the Council's attention to the responses that they had received from member states about Justice Ministries' experiences of the financial crisis. They also updated the Council on the status of negotiations on the free trade agreement between the EU and Korea. Slovenia presented information about the "Beyond Winning" project which is being run by the Alternative Dispute Resolution in Rome. The project is intended to facilitate the use of mediation in cross-border cases. Slovenia announced that it had just taken over the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe and would be holding a conference on procedural rights in October.

Belarus Agreement

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Government are today announcing the conclusion of an agreement between the United Kingdom and the Government of Belarus in respect of the travel of children affected by the Chernobyl incident to the United Kingdom on charity-sponsored respite visits.

On 13 October 2008 President Lukashenko of Belarus issued a decree which suspended permission for children affected by the Chernobyl incident to travel abroad for respite visits. Since this date the UK Border Agency and the British Ambassador in Minsk have been in close contact with the Belarusian Government to negotiate an agreement to see this ban lifted in respect of children travelling to the United Kingdom. The Belarus request that the United Kingdom should enter into such a written agreement was not related to any specific concerns in relation to previous United Kingdom visits.

The agreement, which entered into force on 22 May, allows for the immediate resumption of visits by Belarusian children under the age of 14. It will remain in force for the next five years and will be automatically extended by five year periods thereafter.

The agreement will enable the highly worthwhile work by UK charities in this area to continue and for many thousands more children to visit the United Kingdom in the years to come and to receive the benefits of a temporary period of rest and recuperation.

JUSTICE

Legal Advice

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Maria Eagle): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

> On December 4, I announced that I was asking my officials to lead a short study which would bring together the evidence about the issues facing the advice sector on the ground. I asked them to examine:
>
> The impact of the recession and the demand for civil legal advice.
>
> The impact of civil legal advice fixed fees on local providers—financially and in terms of the type of work they are taking on.
>
> The initial experience of Community Legal Advice Centres, including the impact on other providers in the area.
>
> Trends in funding from sources other than the Community Legal Service, including local authority funding, national lottery funding, charities, central Government Departments, and others.
>
> Since my announcement, the study team have held meetings with relevant bodies and interested parties, and visited advice providers and funders in Bangor, Bristol, Caernarfon, Cardiff, Cornwall, Cumbria, the East Riding of Yorkshire, the London Boroughs of Camden and Wandsworth, Manchester, Norwich, Plymouth, Portsmouth and Tyne and Wear. These meetings provided invaluable information about what is happening on the ground and about the views of those whose day-to-day task is to help those suffering from legal problems.
>
> We have been assisted in this task by a steering group including members of the bodies representing the not for profit advice sector and solicitors in private practice, as well as a range of other interested parties and Government Departments. I am very grateful for the help we have received from the steering group, and from the helpful and constructive attitude they have taken throughout the study.
>
> I look forward to working with the steering group to identify the steps we should take to implement the study's recommendations. It is my intention that a full action plan will be prepared and published in September. I shall keep both Houses informed of developments in this very important area of work.
>
> Copies of the report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

GOVERNMENT EQUALITIES

Equality Bill: A Consultation

The Minister of State, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle): The Equality Bill, currently before Parliament, will introduce a new single Equality Duty which will bring together the three existing race, disability and gender equality duties and extend to cover age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and gender reassignment in full. The Equality Duty will be supported by a number of specific duties, to be set out in secondary legislation, which will help public authorities in the better performance of the duty.

In June 2008, Government said we would consult on our policy proposals for specific duties. The document we are publishing today sets out our proposals and asks for comments. The consultation period will run until September 2009.

I am placing copies of this document in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies will also be available on the Government Equalities Office website at: www.equalities.gov.uk

WORK AND PENSIONS

Right to Control (Disabled People)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): In 2005, the Government made public their commitment to work towards equality for disabled people by 2025. Since then we have come a long way but, as many disabled people know, we still have a long way to go. Part of this ongoing commitment is our plan to legislate for a Right to Control for disabled people. Disabled people have told us that many of them do not have the choice or control over their lives that non-disabled people take for granted. This lack of choice and control is a key barrier to participating and contributing as equal citizens. Powers contained in the Welfare Reform Bill, which is currently going through Parliament, recognise that disabled people are the experts in their own lives. We have worked closely with disabled people and their organisations to develop this right, including with our Advisory Group, chaired by Baroness Jane Campbell.

Today, with the publication of the consultation paper "Making choice and control a reality for disabled people: Consultation on the Right to Control", we are launching our consultation on the Right to Control. This paper has been co-produced with input from disabled people, independent living experts and other stakeholders. The consultation exercise will ensure that the trailblazers are designed to reflect the challenges of local implementation, while delivering real choice and control for disabled people.

The consultation will end on Wednesday, 30 September 2009.

The consultation documents are available on the Office for Disability Issues website at: www.odi.gov.uk/right-to-control. Copies of the document will be placed in the House Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 12 June 2009

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

National Minimum Wage

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): My right hon. Friend the First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Lord President of the Council has made the following statement.

I am pleased to announce that the Government have today written to the Low Pay Commission setting out the remit for their 2010 report.

The Commission is asked to:

Monitor, evaluate and review the national minimum wage (NMW) and its impact, with particular reference to the effect on pay, employment and competitiveness in the low paying sectors and small firms; the effect on different groups of workers, including different age groups, ethnic minorities, women and people with disabilities and migrant workers and the effect on pay structures.

Review the levels of each of the different minimum wage rates and make recommendations for October 2010. The Commission [illegible] also asked to make provisional rate recommendations as appropriate for October 2011.

Consider the detailed arrangements for an apprentice minimum wage under the NMW framework (as set out in the NMW Act 1998), and to recommend the rate and arrangements that should replace the existing exemptions, together with the timing for its introduction.

The Commission is asked to do this with reference to:

a) the issues and groups to which they have particular regard when reviewing the established rates, as laid out above;

b) the need to ensure that sufficient volume, quality and sectoral variety of apprentice places are available to meet Government targets, in particular when the education participation age is raised in England in 2013 and 2015; and

c) the effective functioning of the education market and young peoples' choices with reference to the level of financial payment available on other education and training routes.

Report to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills by the end of February 2010.

The new terms of reference for the Low Pay Commission follow the Government's acceptance of the Commission's recommendations in their 2009 report on introducing a minimum wage for apprentices.

Copies of the remit have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

NATO Training Mission for Afghanistan

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): At the Strasbourg-Kehl summit in April 2009, NATO agreed to establish the NATO training mission for Afghanistan (NTM-A) to help support the development of a capable and self-sustaining Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP). This accords with the UK's policy for Afghanistan and Pakistan announced by the Prime Minister on 29 April 2009 and is essential to the long-term stability of Afghanistan. Following discussions on the NTM-A's tasks with my NATO colleagues this week, I can announce the UK will contribute to the mission by leading the ANA's combined arms training school. The school will be multinational and will provide "train the trainer" courses across Afghanistan for ANA instructors in junior officer, non-commissioned officer (NCO), infantry support weapons, armour and artillery training. The school represents a new stage in the development of the ANA's training. The UK will therefore be able to transfer some of its personnel already engaged in ANA training to the school and so there will be no need to increase UK force levels. The UK will also continue to provide mentoring teams for the ANA and ANP in Helmand province and ANA officer candidate training in Kabul.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EU Energy Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Mr. David Kidney): I am pleased to outline the agenda items for the forthcoming Energy Council in Luxembourg on 12 June where Andy Lebrecht, deputy permanent representative to the EU, will represent the UK.

The first item on the agenda will be a discussion of the Commission's proposal for a Council directive imposing an obligation on member states to maintain minimum stocks of crude oil and/or petroleum products.

I also expect the Commission to give a progress report on its proposals for directives of the European Parliament and Council on the labelling of energy-related products, the energy performance of buildings, and the labelling of tyres. These were part of the Second Strategic European Energy Review which the Commission produced in November 2008.

Over lunch, I expect that representatives will discuss informally the location of the Association of Energy Regulators. The candidate cities are Ljubljana, Bratislava and Bucharest.

Finally, there will be short items of information on international relations in the field of energy.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

DEFRA (Departmental Report)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): My 2009 departmental report, which contains information on progress against the Department's strategic objectives, public service agreement target, the challenges ahead and summary expenditure plans for 2008-09, will be laid before Parliament today. The report is also available on DEFRA's website.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chris Bryant): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 15 June in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the Minister of State for Europe will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the 18-19 June European Council

The GAERC will discuss the presidency's agenda for the June European Council. The European Council will focus on EU institutional issues, including Ireland's guarantees on the Lisbon treaty and Commission President Barroso's re-appointment.

The Council will also discuss the economic, financial and social situation, taking "first decisions" on financial regulation based on the Commission's proposals on the de Larosière report as well as examining the progress of the G20 summit outcomes. There will also be a discussion of climate change funding mechanisms in order to help develop an EU position ahead of the Copenhagen climate change conference in December. Illegal migration in the Mediterranean is likely to be discussed, as is the Ukraine/Russia gas dispute.

Finally, on external issues, we expect coverage of the situation in Afghanistan / Pakistan, the Middle East and Burma.

The Government support these discussions at the June European Council. In particular, we welcome the continued co-ordinated EU response to the economic and financial situation.

Enlargement

The Council is likely to take stock of the progress of accession negotiations with Croatia, delayed due to Slovenia blocking the nine chapters ready for opening or closing. The Government believe that bilateral disputes should not delay the accession negotiations. We continue to urge both countries to find a mutually acceptable solution to their territorial dispute and support the efforts of Commissioner Rehn to facilitate this.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

The GAERC is likely to reiterate EU support for a two state solution in accordance with previous agreements between the parties; access to Gaza and a comprehensive, regional approach. We also expect Ministers to express their support for the US commitment to the MEPP, and reaffirm the EU's readiness to work in close co-operation with the US and other international partners towards achieving a lasting peace. The EU-Israel Association Council will take place in the margins of the GAERC.

Cuba

Ministers may discuss Cuba on the occasion of the annual review of the EU's common position and the parallel review of the recently re-instated EU-Cuba political dialogue. The Council is likely to adopt conclusions which: renew the EU's commitment to the common position and dual track engagement with Government and civil society; confirm the continuation of the political dialogue; and express concern at the lack of concrete progress on our human rights concerns. The Government remain concerned about the human rights situation in Cuba, but continue to support a policy of engagement. Continuation of the political dialogue will allow more time for it to achieve results.

Burma

On Burma, we expect the Council to discuss developments in the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, and in particular the need for a robust EU response in the event of a guilty verdict. It is not yet clear whether a verdict will come before the GAERC. Were Aung San Suu Kyi to be subjected to a further period of house arrest, or worse, imprisoned, this would remove the last shred of credibility from elections planned for 2010. In such circumstances we would expect the Council to issue strong conclusions outlining the steps the EU planned to take in response.

Western Balkans

On the Western Balkans, Ministers will agree conclusions on visa liberalisation, regional co-operation, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The UK is not a party to the Schengen agreement and so does not participate in decisions on visa liberalisation. On BiH, the EU will underline the importance of further reform, and reaffirm its commitment to the five objectives and two conditions that need to be completed before transition from the office of the high representative to a solely EU special representative-led mission can occur. Ministers may also discuss co-operation by the countries in the region with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

AOB

Moldova

Ministers may discuss the EU's relationship with Moldova, and the current political uncertainty following the failure to elect a new President and the requirement for new parliamentary elections. They will emphasise the importance of holding free and fair elections.

Illegal Migration

There will be a short discussion of illegal migration in the Mediterranean region, at the request of Greece. We expect Ministers to focus on increasing and strengthening co-operation in Europe to tackle the increasing flows of illegal migration. The UK supports this and recognises the particular challenges that are faced by Greece and other Mediterranean countries. We are also keen to further the UK's bilateral relationship with Greece on migration through the provision of technical advice and assistance.

Georgia

Ministers' discussions are likely to focus on the continued role of the EU monitoring mission (EUMM), whose mandate is due for renewal in September. Ministers are also likely to take into account the outcome of discussions in New York on the renewal of the UN mission's mandate, and the possibilities for increased co-operation between international missions on the ground.

Overseas Security Information (Business)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Chris Bryant): My noble Friend the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Davies of Abersoch) has made the following written ministerial statement:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is committed to providing British companies with information on a range of security related issues they might face when operating or investing overseas.

On 1 May the Government launched a new product, titled "Overseas Security Information for Business" (OSIB), which will provide this information free of charge through the web site of UK Trade and Investment. The intention is to give useful support to British business in order that it can successfully meet the key security related challenges of doing business overseas and to improve their competitiveness.

The information provided will be both generic and country specific. While OSIB is an FCO/UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) initiative a great deal of its added value is the result of bringing together systematically a range of sources of information from across Government. The new product will cover issues such as political security risks, bribery and corruption, physical and personnel security, the terrorist threat and organized crime. It is presented in a co-ordinated and easily accessible way, including links to useful non-governmental web sites.

OSIB will complement the information and advice already made available through the FCO travel advice to British nationals who travel or reside overseas. Also, it will draw on, and complement, information provided by our Embassies and High Commissions, who in many cases already have arrangements in place to exchange information on security issues with locally based British companies and to provide information on request to business visitors.

In setting up this new product the Government have worked closely with business in order that the product can best meet business needs, and reflect business advice. UKTI intend to establish shortly a joint advisory group, to be chaired by a business representative, comprising a cross section of business, and officials from the Government Departments most closely involved in the initiative. We anticipate that the joint advisory group will meet three times per year. It will provide direction to OSIB and facilitate collaboration with key international business security associations.

OSIB supersedes the previous security information service for business overseas (SISBO), a joint business/FCO venture which closed on 30 April. The FCO and UKTI have worked closely with the SISBO board to achieve a successful transition from SISBO to OSIB.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Constable's Annual Report

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have received the annual report for 2008-09 of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland which is being laid before Parliament today as a Command Paper.

Copies of the report are available from the Library of the House.

WALES

Departmental Report

The Secretary of State for Wales (Mr. Peter Hain): I have today published the Wales Office's 2009 departmental report. Copies will be available in the Vote Office and on the Wales Office website from 12.00.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 8 June 2009 in Luxembourg. I represented the United Kingdom.

The main agenda item at the Council was the preparation of the social and employment aspects of the June European Council to be held on 18 and 19 June. There was also a ministerial exchange of views on the Lisbon agenda post-2010.

In introducing the main policy debate, the Czech presidency emphasised the contribution of the 7 May employment summit held in Prague and the Commission's 3 June jobs communication. Member states, including the UK, welcomed the Commission communication and its emphasis on skills and the reform agenda. A number of member states, including the UK, highlighted budgetary concerns about the European social fund proposals.

The Council adopted without comment the Council decision on the guidelines for employment policies of the member states and endorsed the Employment Committee opinion on skills and mobility. The Council adopted conclusions on flexicurity in times of crisis, on social services as a tool for active inclusion and on equality for women and men in active and dignified ageing. The Council also adopted conclusions on the inclusion of the Roma. There was also a discussion of the Commission proposal to extend social security rights to third-country nationals. The UK is not opted-in to this proposal. The presidency concluded that further preparatory work on the proposal was needed.

The Council noted progress reports on revision of the directive on pregnant workers and on the directive on equal treatment of the self-employed. The Council also noted a presidency progress report on the anti-discrimination directive. The incoming Swedish presidency underlined its hopes of continuing work and reaching political agreement in November.

Under Any Other Business, the Council took note of information from the Commission on the status of implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Council noted reports from the presidency of conferences it had hosted.

At the Ministers only lunch, there was a discussion on post-2010 successor to the Lisbon strategy. For the UK, I stressed the importance of the skills agenda and the importance of undertaking reforms to improve productivity and employment potential.

Petitions

Monday 1 June 2009

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Services (Shropshire)

The Petition of users of the sorting office in Church Stretton,

Declares that the proposed closure of the sorting office in Church Stretton will have a detrimental effect on the lives of local residents; further declares that the Sorting Office is an important and efficient element of the local community, supporting both private residents and businesses; notes that a majority of local residents are elderly and large numbers are dependent on public transport; further notes that such residents would find it difficult and costly to travel eight miles down the A49 to Craven Arms (a town half the size of Church Stretton) to collect parcels; further notes that this journey would also be highly inconvenient and inefficient for the growing number of businesses dependent on computer sales; and believes that if closed there would be difficulties for local postmen and women, delayed local deliveries, uncertainties and difficulties over collecting parcels, inconvenience, possible job losses, a lack of space for parcels in the Post Office in Spar, another empty building on the industrial estate, and another nail in the coffin of local democracy.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to recognise the threat posed to the community of Church Stretton by the proposed closure of the local sorting office, and to take action to ensure the sorting office is retained.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Philip Dunne, Official Report*, 5 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 143 .]

[P000361]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The restructuring and modernisation of Royal Mail's sorting office operations is a matter for Royal Mail's management and it is not appropriate for Government to intervene.

Given that volumes of mail are expected to fall by as much as 10 per cent. each year due to people using digital communications to meet their needs, it is vitally important that Royal Mail structures its operations as efficiently as possible so that it can secure its future and continue to provide the universal postal service at affordable prices.

Royal Mail has given assurances that changes to mail services in the Church Stretton area will be completed with minimal disruption to customers and staff.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka

The Petition of residents of Ilford North and others,

Declares great concern at the present appalling humanitarian tragedy unfolding in the north of Sri Lanka; notes that this conflict has killed at least 70,000 people and condemns the loss of every innocent life; and strongly believes that both sides must abide by their obligations under international law and protect the lives of civilians.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take action to help bring about an immediate ceasefire that is recognised by both sides; to help ensure that the UN aid agencies and NGOs are granted free access to the region; to take action to suspend Sri Lanka from the Commonwealth if the Sri Lankan Government does not agree to a ceasefire; and to work towards a long-term solution that takes into account the reasonable concerns of all communities in a political process that leads to lasting peace.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Lee Scott, Official Report*, 29 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1000 .]

[P000353]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

I remain extremely concerned about the current situation in northern Sri Lanka, as demonstrated in my statements to the House of 2, 22 and 30 April. The most pressing concern remains for the safety of the tens of thousands of civilians that the UN and humanitarian agencies estimate remain caught up in the fighting. It was our concern for their safety that first led the Prime Minister to call for a ceasefire on 14 January.

I have repeated the call for a ceasefire on numerous occasions, most recently during my visit to Washington, where I discussed the latest humanitarian situation with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on 12 May. Following meetings, we released a joint statement calling on all sides to end hostilities immediately and to allow for the safe evacuation of the civilians trapped within the safe zone. We agreed the need for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to lay down their arms and allow civilians free passage out of the conflict zone, and called on the Government of Sri Lanka to abide by its commitment of April 27 to end major combat operations and the use of heavy weapons.

It is essential that both sides do everything possible to avoid harming civilians and ensure vital aid reaches those civilians who need it. Secretary Clinton and I called on the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE to allow a UN humanitarian team to visit the conflict zone to facilitate the safe evacuation of civilians. We urged both sides to allow food and medical assistance to reach those trapped by fighting, co-operate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to facilitate the evacuation of urgent medical cases, ensure the safety of aid and medical workers, and permit humanitarian access to all sites where displaced persons are being registered or being provided shelter. We will continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to fulfil the commitments it has made to improve conditions in the camps set up for displaced people and we are working with a number of independent agencies to ensure these standards are met.

The UK Government has also taken practical steps to alleviate the suffering of civilians. On 26 April, the Prime Minister pledged a further £2.5 million for humanitarian aid for displaced persons, taking the total UK humanitarian assistance to £7.5 million. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the International Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Worcester (M. Foster) visited Sri Lanka on 27 April to conduct an humanitarian assessment. Following my visit to Sri Lanka with French Foreign Minister Kouchner, a cross party group of MPs, including Des Browne, held talks with the Sri Lankan Government, humanitarian agencies and visited the IDP camps in Vavuniya on 4 and 5 May.

The UK Government want to contribute to a renewed drive for a political solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka. We believe that for peace to be sustainable, an inclusive political process that takes into account fully the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankan communities, Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim, is essential. Both Secretary Clinton and I also highlighted the urgent need for a political solution that reconciles all Sri Lankans, and establishes a meaningful role for Tamil and other minorities in national political life.

The UK remains active in the UN, EU, Commonwealth and with other key international partners, including the US and India, to ensure that the spotlight of international concern remains firmly on the situation in Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka can be in no doubt about the depth of feeling in the international community regarding the need for a ceasefire and for a co-ordinated humanitarian relief effort to alleviate the suffering of innocent civilians.

The Petition of members of the British Tamil community, and others,

Declares that the loss of life, denial of human rights, and restricted access of the United Nations and other relief agencies in Sri Lanka are unacceptable; and further declares that tens of thousands of Tamil civilians have been displaced by military action and face an uncertain future.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take all necessary steps to secure a ceasefire, allow unfettered access for UN and NGO relief, human rights agencies and the media, and make clear to the Sri Lankan Government that a lasting peace can only come through political dialogue and respect for human rights.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report,* 29 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1000.]

[P000352]

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And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Simon Hughes, Official Report,* 29 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1004.]

[P000355]

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Declares that the loss of life, denial of human rights, and restricted access of the United Nations and other relief agencies in Sri Lanka are unacceptable; and further declares that tens of thousands of Tamil civilians have been displaced by military action and face an uncertain future.

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And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Susan Kramer, Official Report,* 29 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1003.]

[P000357]

The Petition of members of the British Tamil community, and others,

Declares that the loss of life, denial of human rights, and restricted access of the United Nations and other relief agencies in Sri Lanka are unacceptable; and further declares that tens of thousands of Tamil civilians have been displaced by military action and face an uncertain future.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take all necessary steps to secure a ceasefire, allow unfettered access for UN and NGO relief, human rights agencies and the media, and make clear to the Sri Lankan Government that a lasting peace can only come through political dialogue and respect for human rights.

And the Petitioners remain, etc—*[Presented by Mr. Edward Davey, Official Report,* 29 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1002 .]

[P000358]

The Petition of members of the British Tamil community, and others,

Declares that the loss of life, denial of human rights, and restricted access of the United Nations and other relief agencies in Sri Lanka are unacceptable; and further declares that tens of thousands of Tamil civilians have been displaced by military action and face an uncertain future.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take all necessary steps to secure a ceasefire, allow unfettered access for UN and NGO relief, human rights agencies and the media, and make clear to the Sri Lankan Government that a lasting peace can only come through political dialogue and respect for human rights.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Tom Brake, Official Report,* 30 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1143 .]

[illegible]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs:

On 19 May, President Rajapakse formally announced that the conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE was over. Although this means that the thousands of civilians who were trapped in the conflict area are no longer under immediate threat from the fighting, for many, the misery continues. Over 270,000 civilians are now being housed in camps. Our most urgent priority is to get food, shelter and medicine to civilians who have been caught up in the conflict. On 17 May, DFID allocated an additional £5 million, taking the UK's total aid contribution to £12.5million. We are working closely with the UN and other donors to ensure that support reaches those who so urgently need it.

The Prime Minister spoke to President Rajapakse on 18 May and urged him to grant immediate and full access for humanitarian agencies to the thousands of civilians affected by the fighting. The President assured him that this would happen. I spoke to Foreign Minister Bogollagama the same day to reiterate this message. We welcome recent visits to Sri Lanka by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General's Chef de Cabinet, Vijay Nambiar, and Sir John Holmes, the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs. We will continue to urge the Sri Lankan Government to meet its humanitarian obligations.

Lasting peace will only be possible when all communities in Sri Lanka believe that they are accepted and valued members of society. We recognise that the process of political reconciliation will not be easy. There are many entrenched attitudes and resentment. Sri Lankan people from all communities, working on the basis of mutual respect and equality, need to agree the way forward. The Prime Minister urged President Rajapakse to be magnanimous in victory. I emphasised the importance of an inclusive political process based on equality when I spoke to the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister. We welcome the President's statement to the Sri Lankan Parliament on 19 May that he will embark on an inclusive political process involving all communities on the basis of equality and absence of fear.

The continuing focus of this Government's activity over the coming days and weeks will be to work with international partners in encouraging the Sri Lankan Government to devote as much energy to winning the peace as it did to winning the war.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration (Tony Lola)

The Petition of persons concerned at the Government's decision to refuse Tony Lola's application for asylum,

Declares that over Christmas 2005, Tony Lola, then aged 6, was being held in custody by police in the Democratic Republic of Congo; notes that his parents had objected to the politics of the governing party; further notes that soon after, Tony was released but because he was felt to be at risk, he was sent to join his mother, Mireille, who had fled the DRC in 2002; further declares that, since his arrival, Tony has amazed and delighted those in the community he has joined at Didsbury CE Primary School and in the congregation at Emmanuel Church, Didsbury; further notes that he is fully integrated and participates with evident enthusiasm in his studies and activities at both the school and in the church; believes that he shows real potential to develop his already impressive talents to the benefit of the whole community; further notes that in 2007, his application for asylum was turned down by the Home Office as HM Government believes the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo does not pose a threat to Tony or Mireille; and further declares that he and Mireille are now at risk of removal back to DR Congo

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to review its decision and the Home Office to use their powers of discretion and allow Tony and Mireille to stay.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report,* 30 March 2009; Vol. 490, c. 760.]

[P000340]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

Following careful consideration the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) decided to grant Tony Lola and his mother Indefinite Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom. This is a grant of leave under paragraph 395c of the Immigration Rules.

The UK operates a fair and humane immigration system that takes into account individual circumstances such as length of time in the UK, protects those who need it, which removes those who do not.

The support shown from within the local community towards this family has been admirable, we have repeatedly said that we will always consider fresh evidence and that we would never remove someone with outstanding applications or appeals. All of our decisions are made in line with the published criteria and within the boundaries of immigration rules and the public should have confidence in us.

We hope that the support this family has received from the community will continue as they make their lives in this country.

Petition

Tuesday 2 June 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY

Support for Mutual Societies

The Humble Petition of the Presbyterian Mutual Society,

Sheweth that the Prime Minister should provide similar governmental guarantees to UK mutual societies as for banks; notes that the catalyst for the financial difficulties experienced by the Presbyterian Mutual Society arose after the Government applied their existing guarantee under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme to a number of UK Banks and Icelandic Banks; notes that this resulted in a large number of investors with the Presbyterian Mutual Society withdrawing their deposits; and acknowledges that with Government intervention the Society could be returned to its sound financial footing.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House will urge the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to extend the Financial Services Compensation Scheme to include the Presbyterian Mutual Society and seek to secure appropriate intervention from the financial sector to provide a basis on which all members will be able to recover their investments in full.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Jeffrey M. Donaldson, Official Report*, 21 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 206 .]

[P000347]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

The Government sympathises with the extremely difficult situation faced by members.

Organisations such as PMS, which are registered as Industrial and Provident Societies (IPSs), are exempt from regulation by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in respect of accepting deposits in the form of withdrawable share capital. PMS is not authorised by the FSA to accept deposits in any other form—for example, in the form of a conventional bank deposit.

Members' deposits in an IPS are held in the form of withdrawable share capital, which means that members "invest" in their society in a similar way to as if they had purchased shares in a company. This means that their money forms the risk capital of the society, and in the event of a failure may be lost. Societies should make clear to members that their deposits constitute risk capital.

Under IPS legislation, any one member's shareholding is limited to £20,000. Being outside of FSA regulation, PMS and its members do not contribute to, and are therefore not protected by, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

It must also be emphasised that IPSs in Northern Ireland are a devolved matter. PMS was registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 with the relevant authority, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in Northern Ireland.

The FSA has investigated the activities of PMS and concluded that the society was conducting regulated activities without the necessary authorisation or exemption under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. However, on the basis of the information currently available to them, and applying the criteria set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, the FSA has decided that it would not be right for them to prosecute any of the people involved in running PMS. The FSA remains in touch with the administrator for PMS and have said that if further information comes to light relating to the issues they have investigated, they will look into it.

The Administrator will be making a statutory progress report on or before 16 June and I understand that a formal arrangement for winding up the Society will be put to members in September. The Administrator's website states he is currently finalising his investigation into the conduct of the directors of the Society prior to it entering administration and his findings will be presented to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment shortly.

Petitions

Thursday 4 June 2009

OBSERVATIONS

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools (Essex)

The Petition of various pupils and former pupils, parents, residents and others,

Declares that Thomas, Lord Audley School has a special place in the life of the Berechurch Ward community in accordance with the Government's policies towards promoting sustainable communities; further declares the petitioners' opposition to proposals by Essex County Council which would result in the closure of the School and the bussing of pupils to a school some distance away at considerable financial cost to the parents.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls on the Government to stop Essex County Council from closing Thomas, Lord Audley School; to ensure that all necessary support, financial and otherwise, is given to enable the school to improve its performance and to continue to be an integral part of the community in the years ahead; and to implement 'Option 4' for secondary school provision in Colchester which would include Thomas, Lord Audley School operating in partnership with Alderman Blaxill School and the Stanway School.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Russell, Official Report,* 31 March 2009; Vol. 490, c. 892 .]

[P000342]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

School place planning is the statutory responsibility of the local authority (LA) in this case Essex County Council. LAs have a duty to assess the current and future need for places and where there are high levels of surplus places are expected to take decisive action to reduce these, as maintaining excessive surplus places represents a poor use of resources—resources that can be used more effectively to support schools in raising standards. Where the LA propose to make any changes to local school provision they must publish statutory proposals which are then decided under established local decision making arrangements. The House of Commons and Ministers have no direct role in the process.

The process for making statutory proposals to existing schools (e.g. school closures) involves five statutory stages: Consultation (with all interested parties); Publication (in a local newspaper, at the entrance to the school and in a conspicuous place in the area served by the school); Representations (allowing for comments and objections to be submitted); Decision (normally by the LA); and Implementation (where proposals are approved). There is a right of appeal to the schools adjudicator in specific cases.

Essex County Council has undertaken its responsibility in this area quite correctly through a local consultation process which highlighted the two key facts for parents: the overprovision of places in Colchester and the sustained levels of low achievement at three Colchester schools. The County propose to address these two issues by closing three schools (including Thomas Lord Audley) and creating a single school, which the authority hope to be an Academy subject to the DCSF decision. The County also proposes to expand the five remaining schools, all of which are successful and popular with parents.

If, having considered the responses to its consultation, the County Council decides to proceed with the proposed reorganisation it is required to publish Statutory Notices. Then follows a six week representation period in which comments and objections can be submitted. These must be taken into consideration by the decision maker when deciding whether to approve proposals. More detail on the decision-making arrangements and guidance is available from the School Organisation Website at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg.

Schools (Isle of Wight)

The Petition of Chale School and Village Community Association and supporters,

Declares that Chale Church of England Primary School must be retained within the village; further declares that this small rural school provides the perfect environment for local children to develop their full potential academically, together with social skills for future life within the community of the village; notes that the closure of the village school would necessitate children as young as four years old travelling up to sixteen miles a day on an additional school bus; further notes that this would preclude parents from having daily interaction with teaching staff and settling their children into school each day, and that this would also impact upon children's opportunities to partake in after school activities; believes that the financial implications of providing this transport would eradicate any potential savings from the school closure; and further believes that closing the school would rip the heart out of the community, and undermine village life, causing young families to move away in order to live near a primary school.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to direct the Isle of Wight Council to abandon any plans to close Chale School.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Andrew Turner, Official Report,* 30 April 2009; Vol. 491, c. 1143 .]

[P000360]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families:

The Government recognises that local schools are often at the heart of rural communities. Closing a rural school can have effects well beyond the schooling of the children and should only be considered as a last resort. That is why we introduced a presumption against closure over 10 years ago.

Local authorities are responsible for planning and managing the pattern of educational provision in their area. However, in deciding upon proposals to close a rural school they must act in accordance with statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families.

The statutory guidance requires local authorities, and the schools adjudicator when appropriate, to have regard to the presumption against closure. The guidance also requires authorities (or schools adjudicator) to take account of several other factors when considering those proposals—including transport availability and cost, alternatives to closure and the impact on the community.

I wrote to all local authorities in January 2008, reminding them of the presumption. In that letter I set out the Government's policy on the alternatives to closure which is that spare capacity should be reassigned and put to other uses, for example to broaden the services schools offer in line with the likely future pattern of children's services and to meet the needs of local communities. We also want local authorities to promote shared governance arrangements between small primary schools in rural areas as a means of addressing any financial and educational challenges.

I understand the Isle of Wight Council intend to publish the proposal to close Chale Primary School on 10 July. In the six weeks following publication local parents and residents will have the opportunity to put forward their views, which the local authority must take into consideration in coming to a decision. If the Church of England were to object to the proposals the authority would be obliged to refer the case to the schools adjudicator for fresh consideration.

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has no powers to direct the Isle of Wight Council to abandon their plans to close Chale Church of England Primary School.

Petition

Tuesday 9 June 2009

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

General Practice Surgeries (Bedfordshire)

The Petition of supporters of General Practice surgeries in South West Bedfordshire, and others,

Declares that the involvement of commercial companies in General Practice surgeries risks destabilising local surgeries and threatens the comprehensive, high quality care provided by General Practitioners; and further declares that commercial companies are accountable primarily to stakeholders, and that General Practitioners should be free to treat people as patients rather than customers.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to halt their plans to encourage the involvement of commercial companies in local General Practice surgeries; to continue to support existing NHS General Practice surgeries; and to improve services to patients by further investment in existing General Practice surgeries.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report,* 11 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 655.]

[P000364]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issues raised in the petition are local matters and my Department has brought them to the attention of the East of England Strategic Health Authority.

Most NHS GP practices are independently run by local GPs on behalf of their patients. GPs are self-employed independent contractors. Their accountability is through their patients and their contract to the PCT. Exactly the same arrangements will operate in these new GP practices and Health Centres. Providers will be at least as accountable to local patients as current GPs are.

This Government are seeking to deliver additional capacity and choice from whatever sector or provider it comes from. Traditionally, general practice has been less well developed both in the terms of numbers and quality of care in areas with the greatest health needs. Despite successive efforts by Governments over the years, little has changed. We believe it is time to try something different—through an open and transparent competitive process to offer patient more innovative high quality value for money services.

Any successful provider is accountable firstly to their patients in order to retain their confidence and by default their contracts. All providers, be they private companies, the independent and voluntary sector, are therefore in no different a position than existing GPs.

Petition

Friday 12 June 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Traffic Noise (M6)

The Petition of residents of the Borough of Stafford, and others,

Declares that noise from traffic on the M6 motorway in the section between junctions 13 and 14 is unacceptably high especially for residents who live near the motorway and that the carriageway of this section of the motorway is therefore in need of replacement.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to make early arrangements for a programme of works to refurbish the section of the M6 motorway between junctions 13 and 14 to include replacing the existing carriageway surface with a modern noise-reducing surface.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. David Kidney, Official Report,* 19 May 2009; Vol. 492, c. 1473.]

[P000369]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Current Government policy is to resurface motorways and trunk roads in accordance with normal maintenance needs, unless noise is exceptionally intrusive.

A list of those locations on the strategic roads network in England worst affected by noise was published in *Hansard* in November 1999. The list identified lengths of road where investigations into the mitigation of traffic noise would be handled by the Highways Agency as a priority, using a £5 million ring-fenced annual budget. The sites that met the necessary criteria are being treated and the work is due for completion by March 2011.

The M6 between Junctions 13 and 14 did not meet all of the necessary criteria. These were:

(i) the road must have been opened before June 1988;

(ii) the calculated roadside noise level must be greater than or equal to 80 decibels; and

(iii) the calculated noise level must exceed the design year prediction by 3 decibels or more.

The surface of the M6 is continually monitored to assess its condition and decide on when resurfacing will be necessary. At present, the surface between Junctions 13 and 14 has not deteriorated to the extent that intervention is necessary and the Highways Agency has no plans in the current forward programme for a resurfacing scheme. As with all new resurfacing schemes, a material with noise reducing properties will be used when the time comes for the existing surface to be replaced.

Recently, national policy on noise has changed and DEFRA are now tasked with producing noise maps and action plans for particularly noisy areas, including road corridors, in line with the EU Environmental Noise Directive, which was transposed into UK law under the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006. Noise maps for England's roads were published on 16 May 2008 and work to produce noise action plans for public consultation is now under way.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 1 June 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Competition

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of competitiveness in the farming industry; and if he will make a statement. [274932]

Jane Kennedy: British farmers work extremely hard in challenging circumstances and the competitiveness of the industry is a key concern of the Government. Between 1973 and 2008, the productivity (measured as total factor productivity[1]) of UK agriculture grew by 55 per cent.[2] In addition to productivity, the international competitiveness of UK farming also depends, at least partially, on the strength of sterling against the currencies of our major competitors. The recent weakening of the pound against the euro since mid-2008 has meant that British agricultural exports are priced more competitively against our European competitors thereby strengthening our position on the EU export markets. However, in order to maintain competitiveness in the longer term, the industry must improve its productivity performance relative to the farming industries in our main competitor countries, and the Government are committed to helping them do so.

[1] Total factor productivity is a physical measure of productivity and encompasses all businesses engaged in farming activities, including specialist contractors. Total factor productivity excludes subsidies.

[2] *Source:*
AUK 2008 Chapter 10, paragraph 6.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the measures in the Animal Welfare Act 2006, with particular reference to the tethering of equines; and if he will make a statement. [273874]

Jane Kennedy: We have not yet made a full assessment of the effectiveness of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which came into force on 6 April 2007.

Animals: Diseases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which animal-borne diseases inspectors posted at UK points of entry are instructed to search. [275797]

Jane Kennedy: For intra-community trade in live animals, there are no checks at point of entry. There are risk based post-import checks at point of ultimate destination (e.g. farm, market), which are carried out by Animal Health for diseases that are notifiable under EU and UK law.

Live animals can only be imported to the European Community from third countries approved as having equivalent animal health status to an EU member state for the species in question. They must be accompanied by veterinary certification which must confirm, among other things, that the live animals being transported have been examined by an official veterinarian within 24 hours of loading and showed no clinical signs of disease.

Live animals imported into the European Community from such approved third countries must enter at designated Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) where they are again subject to veterinary inspections by Animal Health for clinical signs of disease and the accompanying health certificates verified.

Animals: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many live wild animals have been imported into the UK in each of the last five years; [275938]

(2) what proportion of live animals imported into the UK was taken from wild populations in each of the last five years. [275941]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information is not held centrally.

However figures are available for imports into the UK from non-EU countries of species listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Permits to allow the import of such species are issued by Animal Health's Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service. The vast majority of these relate to imports of species of the class *Anthozoa*, which includes sea anemones and corals.

	Live wild-taken specimens	*Of which: are of the class Anthozoa*
2005	56,595	42,687
2006	55,112	44,256
2007	96,528	79,672
2008	82,102	61,529
2009 (to date)	15,704	11,994

These figures exclude some CITES listed leeches, which are measured in kilograms rather than number of specimens.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273907]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The total amount incurred by the Department for this trip was £1,309.92.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273908]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's travel costs to and from Glasgow were £744.67. The Department incurred no accommodation costs or food costs associated with his travel.

One departmental official accompanied him, and his travel cost was £500.25. The official also stayed overnight in London prior to the meeting at a cost of £65.00. He incurred no food costs or other accommodation costs.

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274465]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following figures show the total reported number of losses of BlackBerry, personal digital assistant and palm-top devices and mobile telephones since 1 April 2004.

	Mobile phones	*Personal digital assistants including BlackBerry and palm-top devices*
2004-05	0	1
2005-06	4	1
2006-07	4	8
2007-08	0	5
2008-09	0	12
2009-to date	0	0

These losses were reported by officials of this Department. There were no losses involving Ministers or special advisers.

Departmental Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274543]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fisheries

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fisheries officers have been based in each principal coastal town in each year since 2004. [276706]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Data for the number of fishery officers in the principal coastal offices of the Marine and Fisheries Agency are contained in the following table. Details are only available from 2006 following the creation of the agency towards the end of 2005[1].

[1] Information sourced from internal Marine and Fisheries Agency staff lists.

Office	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
Plymouth	1 x DI 1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 3 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 3 x FO
Brixham	1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x SFO 3 x FO	1 x SFO 3 x FO
Newlyn	1 x DI 1 x SFO 3 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 3 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 3 x FO
Penryn	2 x FO	2 x FO	2 x FO
North Shields	1 x DI 1 x SFO 3 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 3 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 3 x FO
Blackpool/ Fleetwood	1 x DI 1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 2 x FO
Grimsby	1 x DI 1 x SFO 1 x FO	1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x SFO 2 x FO
Scarborough	1 x SFO 4 x FO	1 x SFO 4 x FO	1 x SFO 5 x FO
Lowestoft	1 x DI 1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x DI 1 x SFO 2 x FO
Hastings	1 x DI 1 x FO	1 x DI 2 x FO	1 x DI 2 x FO
Shoreham	1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x SFO 2 x FO
Poole	1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x SFO 2 x FO	1 x SFO 2 x FO

Key:
DI = District Inspector
SFO = Senior Fishery Officer
FO = Fishery Officer

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date he most recently discussed sea fishing quotas with his counterparts in the devolved administrations; and if he will make a statement. [276705]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I regularly discuss fisheries issues with my counterparts in the devolved Administrations; the most recent discussion was at the European Agriculture and Fisheries Council on Monday 25 May 2009.

The latest discussions I have had with my counterparts that focused specifically on quotas were in the run up to our joint announcement on 13 May 2009 to set up a quadrilateral Ministerial Working Group to deliver proposals for quota management and licensing reforms in the UK.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of mutual aid agreements established by local authorities following the recommendations of the Pitt report on flooding. [277444]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We estimate there are hundreds of such agreements in place across England and Wales. These agreements cover a whole range of aspects of mutual aid between local authorities and between organisations which might be called upon during wide-area emergencies. In December 2008, guidance to local authorities on establishing mutual aid protocols was published jointly by the Cabinet Office, the Local Government Association and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives. The impact of this guidance on the number and standard of mutual aid arrangements will be surveyed during the course of this year.

Floods: Property Development

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the results of the first bidding round for the property-level flood protection grants scheme. [277404]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I intend to announce the results of the first round of bids for the property-level flood protection grant scheme shortly.

Hydroelectric Power: Licensing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average time taken to process an abstraction licence application for hydropower schemes was in each of the last four years. [277436]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has collected information on the time taken to determine hydropower permit applications since November 2008. The time taken to determine applications between receipt of the formal application to issuing a permit is as follows:

2008: Average time 133 days

2009: Average time 119 days

The Environment Agency did not record data centrally on the time taken to determine hydropower permits before November 2008.

Landfill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the amounts of money raised from the disposal of waste by the *(a)* landfill tax and *(b)* Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [276891]

Jane Kennedy: Landfill Tax is administered by HM Revenue and Customs. The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme is a trading scheme between local authorities and as such the Government do not raise money from it.

Litter: Lorries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an assessment of the potential for the use of side-flapped, automatic sheeting systems for tipper trucks to contribute to a reduction in littering; and if he will make a statement. [276614]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Current regulations require all loads to be secured so that no danger or nuisance is caused to any person or property by the load either falling or being blown from the vehicle. Vehicle users are free to select the most appropriate equipment to meet these requirements and there are no plans to make an assessment of any new systems.

Marine and Fisheries Agency: Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Marine and Fisheries Agency spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [276367]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine and Fisheries Agency (formerly the Marine Fisheries Agency) was formed in October 2005.

The Agency may, with the prior approval of the chief executive and in accordance with DEFRA departmental policies, incur expenditure on hospitality in furtherance of its business including, for example, working lunches, dinners and similar meetings with external stakeholders and representatives of other countries' marine and fishery authorities.

Since its inception, the Agency has spent the following sums on hospitality:

	MFA hospitality (£)
2005-06	63
2006-07	2,104
2007-08	2,150
2008-09	3,158

Information for 2005-06 relates to activities of the Agency from its inception on 1 October 2005. Data relating to previous periods are not readily separable from that of DEFRA.

The Agency holds no budget for entertainment, and has incurred no expenditure on entertainment.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 31 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. M. Carey. [275149]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State replied to the right hon. Member on 18 May.

Milk

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps he has taken to support milk production; and what assessment he has made of the effect on dairy farmers of recent trends in the price of milk. [276196]

Jane Kennedy: While the dairy sector is responsible for determining milk production, DEFRA helps the supply chain address issues through the Dairy Supply Chain Forum.

I am aware of the current prices and declining milk production, and their effect on the dairy sector at present. This is not specific to the UK, as other EU member states are also experiencing similar drops in milk deliveries. It is normal to see a fall in prices at this time of year due to seasonal production increases. This has been exacerbated somewhat by the high returns experienced in 2007-08 which resulted in an increase in supply, and the fall in global demand seen recently due to the current economic situation.

Reservoirs: Maps

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent progress has been made in mapping large reservoirs; [277651]

(2) how many reservoirs have been mapped since December 2008; [277652]

(3) what progress the Environment Agency has made towards the objective of providing inundation maps to local resilience forums by the end of 2009. [277653]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Between May 2008 and February 2009 the Environment Agency undertook trial and pilot studies on 49 reservoirs. Based on the results of these, it is undertaking two phases of work:

Phase 1 (March to September 2009): low resolution assessment of downstream risk to life for all reservoirs covered by the Reservoirs Act 1975 (i.e. those over 25,000 cubic metres capacity). As at the end of May, 57 reservoirs had been mapped under this Phase.

Phase 2 (June 2009 to January 2010): higher resolution assessment on the higher risk reservoirs identified in Phase 1.

The handover process to Local Resilience Forums is still to be finalised.

Rural Areas: Housing

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of rural England is served by Rural Housing Enablers funded by his Department. [276643]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA no longer funds the Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs). From April 2005 to March 2008, DEFRA had part-funded this scheme to allow a smooth transition to local authorities and other funding sources after the Countryside Agency withdrew from this area of work.

The vision for the long-term funding of RHEs was that they should be supported at a local level by the same local authorities and housing associations whose rural delivery they exist to support. This reflects the Government's desire to enable decisions about priorities to be taken at the local level in response to local needs. Hence, local authorities, housing associations and registered social landowners now fund the scheme.

Smallholdings: Devon

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with local authorities in Devon on the disposal of small holdings in local authority ownership. [276199]

Jane Kennedy: There have been no specific discussions with local authorities in Devon on the disposal of local authority smallholdings. However, in the foreword to the latest Annual Report on Smallholdings, a copy of which is in the House Library, I made it clear that DEFRA fully supports the continuation of the county farm system.

I understand that in Devon following a Best Value Review in 2001 the council firmly backed the retention of a county farm estate and that the current estate comprises 60 smallholdings, of which 20 are starter farms and 40 progression farms.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 439W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional annual value of such provision is. [271931]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA and its Executive agencies provide trade unions access to appropriate facilities to enable them to carry out their duties effectively, provided this does not interfere with departmental work and they are not used excessively. Examples include:

accommodation
desks
computers
telephones
faxes
printers
stationery
notice boards
photocopiers
pedestals
filing cabinets

The notional annual value for accommodation (estimated property holding cost) is approximately £60,000 per annum.

However, the overall value for facilities could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the first set of quarterly data from WasteDataFlow returns to be published following the Environment Agency's issuing of guidance to waste disposal authorities on listing the final destination of waste. [269981]

Jane Kennedy: The first data set of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme for quarter 3 of 2008-09 (October to December 2008) will be made available by the end of May 2009.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 685W, on waste disposal: fees and charges, which local authorities made initial inquiries about participating in piloting a waste reduction scheme. [275775]

Jane Kennedy: We are committed to releasing the names of any local authorities that come forward with formal expressions of interest in piloting a waste reduction scheme; none have yet done so.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

St. Margaret's Church: Repairs and Maintenance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what representations the Church Commissioners have received on funding for repairs to the roof of St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. [277282]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners have received no such representations.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Construction

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department uses in assessing the merits of proposals to expand airports; and if he will make a statement. [277009]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport undertook a series of wide-ranging studies to assess the merits of alternative airport expansion options in developing the 2003 White Paper, "The Future of Air Transport". The largest of these, the South East Regional Airports Study (SERAS) announced in 1999, looked in detail at a large number of options for expanding airport capacity in the South East and East of England. Impacts were assessed in accordance with "The Appraisal Framework for Airports in South East and Eastern Regions of England", available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2002/fd/appraisal frameworkforairport1384

This appraisal framework follows that in the then Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR)'s "Guidance on Methodologies for Multi-Modal Studies", which formed the basis for the Department's current published transport appraisal guidance—available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/webtag/

which has been used, for example, in preparing the Impact Assessment accompanying the Secretary of State's decisions on adding capacity at Heathrow airport.

Aviation: EU Countries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* scheduled and *(b)* charter flights there were from British airports to (i) the Netherlands, (ii) Luxembourg and (iii) Malta in each of the last five years. [276900]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following tables show the number of scheduled and charter flights departing from British airports to the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Malta in each of the last five years.

Table 1: Scheduled flights from British airports to the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Malta

Thousand

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Netherlands	45.8	46.5	48.7	51.3	46.0
Luxembourg	3.6	3.7	3.7	4.2	3.7
Malta	2.7	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.2

Source:
DfT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data.

Table 2: Charter flights from British airports to the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Malta

Thousand

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Netherlands	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Luxembourg	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	[1]—
Malta	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.2	0.7

[1] Less than 50 flights.
Source:
DfT analysis of Civil Aviation Authority data.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on alcoholic beverages in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [277355]

Mr. Hoon: Generally, the Department for Transport operates a no alcohol policy. In exceptional cases, where the Department is holding a special event or staff are attending a venue away from their normal office and working long hours necessitating an evening meal, some limited provision of alcoholic drinks at public expense may be permitted at the discretion of a senior civil servant. Spend incurred in such situations is not centrally recorded and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on office removal contracts in each of the last five years. [276458]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information is provided in the following table.

£

	Central Department	*Executive Agencies*
2008-09	411	226,816
2007-08	5,257	311,816
2006-07	8,303	153,874
2005-06	3,564	65,938
2004-05	1,251	483,243

Notes:

Central Department

Excludes expenditure at DfT HQ and Marine Accident Investigation Branch as the requested data are not separately recorded and are only obtainable at disproportionate cost.

Executive Agencies

Excludes expenditure at the Government Car and Despatch Agency, and Maritime and Coastguard Agency as the requested data are not separately recorded and are only obtainable at disproportionate cost

Departmental Rail Travel

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) standard and (ii) business class rail travel in each of the last three financial years. [276491]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275981]

Mr. Hoon: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". Copies of "Public Bodies 2008" are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is available in the Department's Annual Report:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/apr/ar2008/

Information about reviews commissioned in the last five years is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [276366]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Expenditure on hospitality and entertainment (£)
2004-05	214,000
2005-06	201,000
2006-07	191,000
2007-08	279,000
2008-09	[1]196,000

[1] Provisional outturn.

DVLA adheres to the principles on the management of public money (as in HM Treasury's handbook on Regularity and Propriety) and has very strict rules and cost limits on such expenditure. In the main, hospitality costs cover refreshments at meetings with external stakeholders and in relation to workshops held at DVLA premises.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* injury and *(b)* non-injury collisions have occurred during module 1 motorcycle tests since the introduction of the test on 27 April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [276382]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table details how many collisions have occurred during the modular motorcycle test.

	27 April to 15 May 2009
Number of motorcycling tests conducted	1,905
Number of reported incidents on test	14
Injury	10
Non injury	4

None of these incidents involved another person or vehicle. The Driving Standards Agency is working with the motorcycle training industry to improve the standard of preparation of candidates.

Driving: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fraudulent applications for driving licences have been detected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last five years. [276821]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table provides the number of suspect driving licence applications detected by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in the last four financial years:

	Number
2005-06	1,906
2006-07	2,679
2007-08	2,948
2008-09	2,601

This information was not collated prior to 2005.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many photographic driving licences issued to applicants have subsequently been withdrawn on the basis of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* ineligibility of the applicant in each of the last five years. [276822]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held in the requested format. The following table provides the total number of driving licences (paper and photocard) withdrawn in the last three full financial years, the applications having been found to have been suspect.

	Number
2006-07	849
2007-08	1,348
2008-09	1,303

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fake photographic driving licences have been recovered by *(a)* the police, *(b)* the UK Border Agency and *(c)* HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years; and how many such licences were obtained using a (i) fake passport and (ii) passport obtained by fraudulent means. [276823]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The police, UK Border Agency and HM Revenue and Customs do not have statistics relating to the number of false driving licences seized.

The following table provides the number of fake driving licences referred to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) after recovery by the police in the last three years. These figures refer to counterfeit documents, not issued by DVLA and therefore would not have relied on examination of supporting identity documents.

	Forged photocard licence	Forged counterpart
2006	205	5
2007	104	4
2008	94	4

Driving: Lighting

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the risk posed to drivers from left-hand drive vehicles not fitted with headlamp beam adapters; [277266]

(2) what steps he has taken to encourage drivers of left-hand drive vehicles on UK roads to fit headlamp beam adapters. [277267]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is generally recognised that the main risk if the headlamps on left-hand drive vehicles are not correctly adjusted is dazzle to other road users. No recent assessment has been carried out.

Vehicles used in the UK, including those visiting temporarily, must comply with the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations which require that headlamps should not be used so as to cause dazzle or discomfort to other road users. It is the responsibility of those visiting the UK to make themselves aware of these requirements and to make any necessary adjustments to their headlamps to enable them to comply either by using "beam adaptors" or any other method recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency is currently considering whether better information to drivers of large vehicles on how to adjust headlamp beam patterns could be provided.

Eurostar

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the sale of Eurostar UK on the likely price which will be obtained for the sale of High Speed 1. [277248]

Paul Clark: The Government are not engaged in a sale of Eurostar (UK) Ltd.

The continued success and sustainability of Eurostar is an important factor in the value of High Speed 1. This is one of the reasons why the Government continue to examine ways to best further the development of Eurostar to the benefit of passengers and in relation to value for the UK taxpayer. We are doing so in conjunction with our international partners.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter of 8 November 2008 he received from Colin Matthews of BAA on the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport; and if he will make a statement. [277251]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The chief executive of BAA, Colin Matthews, wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport on 28 November 2008. The content of his letter was widely reported in the media and BAA issued a press release on the matter which contains the substance of the letter. The press release is titled "Heathrow Airport puts environmental limits before new flights" and can be accessed in the 'News releases' section of:

www.heathrowairport.com

London and Continental Railways

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how he plans to maximise the value to the Exchequer of the disposal of *(a)* High Speed 1, *(b)* Eurostar UK and *(c)* other property and remaining assets associated with London and Continental Railways Ltd. [277247]

Paul Clark: The Government intend to secure best value in High Speed 1 through a public auction of a long-term concession, the timing of which will depend on an assessment of market conditions.

Similarly London and Continental Railways Ltd. will develop and dispose of its property assets in due course as is judged to deliver best value in the market.

The Government are not engaged in a sale of Eurostar (UK) Ltd. and continue to examine ways to best further the development of the successful Eurostar services to the benefit of passengers and in relation to value for the UK taxpayer. We are doing so in conjunction with our international partners.

Lorries: Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make an assessment of the potential for the use of side-flapped, automatic sheeting systems for tipper trucks to contribute to road safety; and if he will make a statement. [276615]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Current Regulations require all loads to be secured so that no danger is caused to any person or property. Vehicle users are free to select the most appropriate equipment to meet these requirements and there are no plans to request an assessment of any new systems.

For information, the Code can be found on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/vehicles/vssafety/safetyofloadsonvehiclescodeo4566

Recently our domestic code was complemented by a Code for Europe which can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety/vehicles/best_practice_guidelines_en.htm

M25: Road Traffic

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of congestion of the road-widening scheme between junctions 1b and 3 of the M25. [276464]

Paul Clark: A Post Opening Project Evaluation, which includes the effects on levels of congestion, will be carried out in autumn 2009. The report will be available in April 2010.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many automatic penalties the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) issued for failure to submit a statutory off-road notification in each of the last five years; in how many of these cases the Agency had not sent a reminder to the registered keeper previously; and if he will make it his policy that *(a)* DVLA issue reminders for renewal of statutory off-road notifications in all circumstances and *(b)* automatic penalties are not issued by DVLA unless a renewal reminder has been sent. [277519]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not have details of the number of automatic penalties issued for failure to submit a statutory off-road notification. However, the following table provides the total number of automatic penalties issued for the combined reasons of failing to submit a statutory off-road notification or failing to relicense a vehicle.

	Number
January to December 2004	790,057
January to December 2005	1,419,899
January to December 2006	1,274,143
January to December 2007	1,227,047
January to December 2008	1,124,371
January to April 2009	316,216

Reminders are automatically issued to all customers before the SORN or tax disc expires. There may be occasions when a reminder cannot be issued, e.g. if the vehicle is stolen.

Motorcycles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the frequency with which lag pipes are fitted to powered two-wheel vehicles other than those designed for racing purposes off the public highway; and if he will make a statement. [276297]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has not conducted any assessment of the frequency with which modified exhausts are fitted to motorcycles in service.

Network Rail: Consultants

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department paid in fees to Pender Coucher Associates for work in connection with the establishment of Network Rail in 2002. [277365]

Paul Clark: No payments were made to Coucher Pender Ltd. by the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions for work in connection with the establishment of Network Rail in 2002.

However, the Strategic Rail Authority did engage Coucher Pender Ltd. as consultants in the work to bring Railtrack out of administration.

The amount paid can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much of the fees paid by Network Rail to Coucher Pender Ltd. between 2007 and 2009 was paid in salaries and bonuses to Iain Coucher and Victoria Pender; [277366]

(2) how much of the fees paid to Coucher Pender Ltd., formerly Pender Coucher Associates, between 2002 and 2007 by Network Rail were paid in salaries and bonuses to Iain Coucher and Victoria Pender. [277368]

Paul Clark: Iain Coucher is an Executive Director of Network Rail. Details of his annual salaries and bonuses are published in the company's Annual Reports and Accounts, which can be found on the Network Rail website at:

www.networkrail.co.uk

Victoria Pender's employment conditions are a matter for her and Network Rail. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail at the following address for further information on his questions:

Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Mr. Devine: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was paid by Network Rail to Coucher Pender Ltd. formerly Pender Coucher Associates, between 2002 and 2007; [277367]

(2) how much was paid in fees by Network Rail to Coucher Pender Ltd. formerly Pender Coucher Associates, between April 2007 and April 2009. [277369]

Paul Clark: These are commercial matters for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail at the following address for a response to his questions:

Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Railways: EU Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which EU bodies have responsibilities relating to interoperability of European railways. [277187]

Paul Clark: The European Commission is responsible for policy on the Interoperability of European Railways. The Commission is supported on operational and technical matters by the European Railway Agency.

Technical Specifications for Interoperability are developed with the input of a variety of representative bodies.

Draft specifications are consulted on with European social partners:

BUSINESSEUROPE
the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation
European Trade Union Confederation.

Following consultation the drafts need to be agreed with member states and the European Parliament.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on funding road improvement schemes administered by the Highways Agency. [277328]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport receives many representations on improvements to roads managed by the Highways Agency. Notably, the English regions (excluding London) submitted in February 2009 their regional funding advice on transport priorities in the period up to 2018-19 which included a number of proposed enhancements to Highways Agency roads of regional importance. The Department announced in January its planned programme of improvements to motorways and major trunk roads.

Southend Airport

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on levels of greenhouse gas emissions of *(a)* passenger aircraft and *(b)* cargo aircraft using Southend Airport; what representations he has received on this issue since January 2008; and if he will make a statement; [276871]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* departmental officials have had with representatives of BAA on proposals for the expansion of Southend Airport in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [277001]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's latest assessment of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from passenger and freight aircraft using the UK's main airports is published in Annex G of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2009". This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/atf/co2forecasts09/

No assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from passenger and freight aircraft using Southend Airport has been made, nor has the Secretary of State received any representations on the issue.

There have been no discussions between the Department for Transport and BAA on proposals for the expansion of Southend Airport. London Southend Airport was purchased in December 2008 by Stobart Group Ltd. from Regional Airports Limited.

The Future of Air Transport White Paper identified Southend Airport as having a valuable role in meeting local demand and the potential to contribute to regional economic development. The White Paper supported further development in principle, subject to relevant environmental considerations. The two local councils, Rochford and Southend, have recently consulted on their preferred option for the development of Southend Airport. This consultation closed on 15 May 2009.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue from fines for motoring offences arising from detections by speed cameras was paid into the Consolidated Fund *(a)* directly and *(b)* from surpluses of safety camera partnerships in each of the last 10 years. [276454]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport only holds information about speed and red light cameras operating under the National Safety Camera programme which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. The Department does not hold details of fines imposed by courts and paid directly into the consolidated fund. The gross surpluses returned to the consolidated fund from the partnerships are shown in the following table. This surplus represents the difference between the total of fixed penalties paid for speed and red light offences detected by cameras, and the costs reclaimed by partnerships in the prevention, detection and enforcement of these offences. A portion of the amount shown will have been deducted prior to payment to Treasury in order to cover departmental costs.

	Amount (£)	*Number of partnerships operating*
2000-01	1,356,978	7
2001-02	4,106,086	14
2002-03	17,507,241	28

	Amount (£)	*Number of partnerships operating*
2003-04	22,746,086	35
2004-05	18,649,830	35
2005-06	15,348,764	38
2006-07	7,955,505	38

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent from the public purse on the *(a)* purchase and *(b)* maintenance of speed cameras in each year since 1997. [276455]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport only holds information about speed and red light cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. Under the netting off funding arrangements, safety camera partnerships reclaimed expenditure directly attributed to the prevention, detection and enforcement of speeding and red-light offences from fines issued as a result of camera enforcement. The programme was therefore not funded from the public purse but by drivers who had been caught speeding or contravening red traffic lights.

Figures from the audit certificates for the partnerships in England and Wales for the seven financial years between 2000-01 and 2006-07 are contained in the table. These show the amount of fine revenue reclaimed by the partnerships and used for the prevention, detection and enforcement of speed and red light offences. The Department does not hold more specific information on purchase and maintenance costs.

	£
2000-01	8,611,793
2001-02	15,386,939
2002-03	57,620,133
2003-04	91,877,359
2004-05	95,079,784
2005-06	99,542,900
2006-07	97,929,754

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methodology his Department uses to estimate the number of lives saved attributable to the installation of speed cameras. [276467]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The independent evaluations of the National Safety Camera Programme assessed the effectiveness of cameras using a statistical model which took account of a range of parameters including the effects of long-term trends and seasonal variations. Details of the modelling approach are included in the Appendices to these reports.

The four-year evaluation, published on 15 December 2005 and available in the Library of the House and on the Department for Transport's website, found a 42 per cent. reduction in people killed or seriously-injured at camera sites, that means around 1,745 fewer people killed or seriously injured per annum, including over 100 fewer deaths.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

8. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the military situation in Afghanistan. [277540]

Mr. Hutton: Progress has been made, but the insurgency remains resilient. The majority of people can go about their daily lives, but in certain areas of the country, particularly in the south and east, significant security challenges remain.

10. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external threats to the security of Afghanistan. [277542]

25. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* internal and *(b)* external threats to the security of Afghanistan. [277557]

Mr. Hutton: Our assessment is that Afghanistan faces a serious security challenge from within and outside its borders, and this threat will continue for the foreseeable future.

The NATO ISAF mission will continue to support the democratically elected Government of Afghanistan as it seeks to address these threats using a politically-led approach to dismantle the insurgency; and by building the capacity and capabilities of its security forces.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

9. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the present and future use of unmanned aerial vehicles by the armed forces. [277541]

Mr. Quentin Davies: On current operations, unmanned aerial vehicles are giving our troops vital information and are an invaluable asset for our commanders. They have a crucial role to play in future operations and we will continue to invest in them.

Human Rights Legislation

12. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance he has issued to the armed forces on the application of human rights legislation to personnel on the battlefield. [277544]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns) and the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan).

Elections: Service Personnel

13. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements have been made for service personnel and their families overseas to vote in the forthcoming local and European elections. [277545]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For this week's elections a Defence Instruction Notice was published notifying personnel of the date and nature of the elections with key dates by which they must be registered, and the Electoral Commission have distributed publicity campaign posters to all units during the past month. Those personnel overseas who are registered as ordinary or service voters can vote by post or by proxy in both the local and European elections. Those registered as overseas voters can only vote in the European elections.

Army Recruitment Contract

14. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* in-house and *(b)* private sector bids have been submitted for the army recruitment contract. [277546]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No in-house or private sector bids have been submitted in relation to the Army's Recruit Partnering Project. An industry day was held on 28 May to provide information to companies who may be interested in submitting tenders in due course.

Training: New Equipment

15. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place to provide that troops receive training on new equipment before deployment to theatre with such equipment. [277547]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett).

Burden Sharing

16. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions on burden sharing have taken place in the North Atlantic Council. [277548]

Mr. Hutton: The North Atlantic Council routinely discusses all aspects of NATO operations, including burden-sharing. Last month, the issue of burden-sharing featured prominently at the Alliance's Summit meeting, and it will do so again when NATO Defence Ministers meet on 11 to 12 June.

Mental Health

17. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of service personnel who are likely to experience long-term mental health problems. [277549]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Less than 0.1 per cent. of regular service personnel are discharged annually for mental health reasons, whatever the cause. The King's Centre for Mental Health Research is undertaking an MOD-funded study looking at the prevalence of mental health disorders in both serving and veteran personnel. This study will inform our mental health care policies when the results are available towards the beginning of next year. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Afghanistan: Military Vehicles

18. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the main characteristic requirements are which his Department demands for military vehicles used in Afghanistan. [277550]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The requirements of vehicles for Afghanistan are primarily determined by the specific task the vehicle is to carry out and the threat it is expected to face. This means we need to find the right balance between capability, survivability, serviceability, mobility and physical protection for each task.

Armed Forces Day

19. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to mark Armed Forces Day; and if he will make a statement. [277551]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD will be supporting over 80 community events across the country with major events in every region. The historic dockyard Chatham will host the inaugural Armed Forces Day National Event on Saturday 27 June. We have also invited all local authorities to fly a flag for our armed forces. So far 460 of the 480 borough, city, district and county councils across the UK have registered to take part as have the Governors of Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency

20. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the future role of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency. [277552]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Defence Storage and Distribution Agency is being reviewed under the Treasury's Operational Efficiency programme in order to maximise value for money for the taxpayer. A progress report was published in the Operational Efficiency Programme Final Report in April 2009. Work to date has concentrated on identifying a range of possible business models to deliver its services while seeking to minimise its ongoing capital investment requirement. The next phase of work will also include a review of the boundaries, synergies and relationship with the Defence Support Group.

Further progress will be reported in the pre-Budget statement in the autumn.

Trident

21. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on inclusion of the UK's future Trident nuclear deterrent in negotiations at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010. [277553]

Mr. Hutton: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and I regularly discuss a wide range of issues. The UK gave a detailed statement to the 2007 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee on decisions regarding the future of the UK nuclear deterrent. We will make further statements to future NPT conferences as appropriate.

Warships

22. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many warships are in service in the Royal Navy. [277554]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy currently has 85 warships in service. These include aircraft carriers, amphibious vessels, destroyers, frigates, mine countermeasures ships, River Class offshore patrol vessels, inshore patrol craft, survey ships, and 12 submarines.

Service Families

23. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to support the families of service personnel. [277555]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence takes very seriously its responsibility to ensure that service personnel, their families and veterans are properly looked after. We also accept our clear obligation to support their families and those who have left the armed forces.

The Service Personnel Command Paper sets out the nation's commitment to our armed forces, their families and veterans. It is designed to end any disadvantage imposed by the unique demands of service life today, and to improve the level of support given to service personnel, their families and veterans.

Driving Instruction

24. **Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for his Department's arrangements for provision of driving instruction. [277556]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 2007-08, the last full year for which figures are available, the Defence School of Transport at Leconfield provided over 25,000 driving licences to trainees across the armed forces. In addition, a number of local contracts exist to provide driver training. The Army also conducts training for drivers of tracked vehicles. All these arrangements are kept under constant review, to ensure their continuing effectiveness and relevance to operational requirements.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel who have served in Afghanistan have been treated for post-combat stress disorder in each year since 2001. [276040]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since July 2007 the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation has reported on the Psychiatric Morbidity of the UK armed forces. Quarterly reports for the whole of 2007 and the first two quarters of 2008 are available in the Library of the House and on the DASA website found at the following link:

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of treating service personnel injured in Afghanistan in each year since 2001; [276042]

(2) what funds his Department has allocated for the treatment of service personnel *(a)* injured and *(b)* diagnosed with post-combat stress disorder as a result of serving in Afghanistan since 2001. [276043]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Medical policy for the Defence Medical Services (DMS) is overseen by the Surgeon General's Department (SGD). However, the organisational structure of the DMS means that comprehensive primary care and individual operational costs cannot be provided without disproportionate cost as they are disaggregated and embedded in the budgets of individual military units and overall operational budgets.

In Afghanistan, members of the DMS are deployed to provide the necessary in-theatre care and treatment for all our personnel. Funding for these personnel, and all associated treatment costs, are provided from overall operational budgets.

In the UK, the majority of secondary health care is provided in NHS hospitals by both DMS and civilian medical staff. The single service medical services are responsible for delivering primary health care to their respective service commanders-in-chief. This includes local medical centres, including GPs, Regional Rehabilitation Units (RRUs), and Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs). It is not possible to separate out costs from overall unit medical budgets without disproportionate cost.

The DCMHs provide out-patient mental health treatment for those requiring it, and, as noted above, funding for these falls to the single service commands. In the relatively few cases where in-patient care is required, this has since 2004 been provided under contract with external providers. The costs for in-patient care of UK service personnel in each year to date are provided in the following table:

	Contract value (£ million)
1 December 2003 to 31 March 2004	0.4
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	4.2
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	4.5
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	3.4
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	3.9
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	3.3

The figures cover all service patients admitted for any mental health condition, not just post-traumatic stress disorder. They include the cost of assessing patients as well as any treatment provided, and also include services provided between 1 December 2003 and April 2004 prior to the formal contract start date.

Prior to 2004, in-patient treatment was provided by MOD's Duchess of Kent Psychiatric Hospital (DKPH) at Catterick. Although figures for each year since 2001 are not readily available, DKPH's costs in the final year of operation were some £10 million.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1170W, on armoured fighting vehicles, how many Panther Command and Liaison vehicles have been modified for deployment to operations in Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [277337]

Mr. Quentin Davies: To date, 46 vehicles have been modified to a theatre entry standard, appropriate for deployment to operations in Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed services of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* age cohort, *(c)* regiment and *(d)* service stationed in Iraq were (i) killed, (ii) seriously injured and (iii) otherwise injured in each year since 2007. [277235]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 1 January 2007, 52 UK service personnel have died while on deployment, or as a result of injuries sustained in Iraq. The figures presented for fatalities are correct as at 19 May 2009. Of the 52 service personnel who have died, information for three soldiers has not been publicly released and therefore their detailed information has been excluded from the tables.

Since 1 January 2007, three female UK service personnel have died while on deployment, or as a result of injuries in Iraq. These figures are correct as at 19 May 2009.

The following table provides a breakdown of fatalities by age-group and year.

Age-group	*All*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
All	52	47	4	1
<20	6	5	0	0
20-24	22	21	0	1
25-29	11	10	1	0
30-34	5	4	1	0
35-39	3	3	0	0
40+	3	2	1	0
Not released	3	2	1	0

[1] As at 19 May

The following table provides a breakdown of fatalities by service, corps/unit and year.

Service	*Corps/unit*	*All*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
All	All	52	47	4	1
Naval Service[2]	All	0	0	0	0
Army	All	43	40	2	1
	Army Air Corps	1	0	1	0
	Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1	1	0	0
	Corps of Royal Engineers	1	0	1	0
	Corps of Royal Military Police	1	1	0	0
	Duke of Lancaster's Regiment	5	5	0	0
	Foot Guards	3	3	0	0
	Intelligence Corps	1	1	0	0
	Mercian Regiment	1	1	0	0
	Parachute Regiment	2	2	0	0
	Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	1	0	0	1
	Rifles	9	9	0	0
	Royal Armoured Corps	5	5	0	0
	Royal Army Medical Corps	2	2	0	0
	Royal Corps of Signals	1	1	0	0
	Royal Logistic Corps	3	3	0	0
	Royal Regiment of Scotland	2	2	0	0
	Royal Welsh	3	3	0	0
	Yorkshire Regiment	1	1	0	0
RAF	All	6	5	1	0
	1 Squadron RAF Regiment	3	3	0	0
	230 Squadron	1	1	0	0
	504 Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force	1	1	0	0
	903 Expeditionary Air Wing	1	0	1	0
Info not released		3	2	1	0

[1] As at 19 May

[2] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

Note:

The breakdown for Army Corps is presented for the current Army structure, following the merger of many regiments over the last few years. Also, detail of an individual's Corp is subject to change as further information becomes available.

Since 1 January 2007, 79 UK service personnel have been very seriously or seriously injured (VSI/SI) while on deployment in Iraq. The figures presented are sourced from the NOTICAS reporting system and include casualties reported up to 16 May 2009. Casualties within the cause category of 'natural causes' are excluded from the figures.

Information on very seriously and seriously injured casualties by sex for the time period requested cannot be released without disclosing individual identities.

The following table provides a breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured casualties by age-group and year.

Age-group	*Total*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Total	79	69	9	1
<20 years	13	12	1	0
20-24	21	18	2	1
25-29	16	14	2	0
30-34	11	9	2	0
35-39	14	12	2	0
40+	4	4	0	0

[1] As at 16 May

Note:

These figures exclude natural causes

Information on very seriously and seriously injured casualties by regiment, or other service equivalent, for the time period requested cannot be released without disclosing individual identities.

A breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured casualties by service and year is provided in the following table.

Service	*Total*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Total	79	69	9	1
Naval Service[1]	1	1	0	0
Army	70	60	9	1
RAF	8	8	0	0

[1] As at 16 May

[2] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

Note:

These figures exclude natural causes

Since 1 January 2007, 409 UK service personnel have been recorded on the NOTICAS casualty reporting system with a medical listing of Incapacitating Illness/Injury (III), Unlisted Condition (UL) or Minor Injury (MI) while on deployment in Iraq. The figures presented include casualties reported up to 16 May 2009. Casualties within the cause category of 'natural causes' are excluded from the figures.

Since 1 January 2007,13 female members of UK service personnel have been recorded on the NOTICAS casualty reporting system with a medical listing of III, UL or MI while on deployment in Iraq.

The following table provides a breakdown of casualties listed as III, UL and MI by age-group and year.

Age-group	*Total*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Total	409	243	124	42
<20 years	47	20	18	9
20-24	166	104	46	16
25-29	91	54	29	8
30-34	46	31	14	1
35-39	39	23	11	5
40+	20	11	6	3

[1] As at 16 May

Note:

These figures excludes natural causes

Information on the breakdown of casualties by regiment, or other service equivalent, for the time period requested cannot be released without disclosing individual identities.

The following table provides a breakdown of listed as III, UL and MI by service and year.

Service	*Total*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Total	409	243	124	42
Naval Service[2]	17	4	11	2
Army	365	226	100	39
RAF	27	13	13	1

[1] As at 16 May

[2] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

Note:

These figures exclude natural causes

Armed Forces: Deployment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what UK *(a)* Army and *(b)* Royal Navy personnel are based in the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean; [276784]

(2) what UK armed forces are based in *(a)* Anguilla, *(b)* the British Virgin Islands, *(c)* the Cayman Islands, *(d)* Montserrat and *(e)* the Turks and Caicos Islands. [276808]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no UK armed forces based in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, or Turks and Caicos Islands.

Armed Forces: Dismissal

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* senior and *(b)* junior officers and personnel at (i) senior and (ii) junior ranks in each service have been compulsorily discharged in each year since 2006-07. [275121]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The tables provided show the numbers of personnel in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force that have been compulsorily discharged in each year since 2006-07. The Army is unable to provide this information as it is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Navy figures are for administrative and disciplinary discharge only as all other information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. During this period, the RAF was engaged in a significant redundancy programme to meet manning targets and this is reflected in the table. The RAF figures include personnel who have been discharged under the following exit methods: Administrative and Disciplinary, Medically Unfit and Compulsory and Voluntary Redundancy.

Royal Navy—Officers

	Calendar Year		
	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Senior Officers	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Junior Officers	28	35	43

[1] Figures that are less than five are withheld to avoid disclosure of sensitive information

Royal Navy—Other Ranks

	Calendar Year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Senior Rates	[1]—	[1]—	—
Junior Rates	11	16	13

[1] Figures that are less than five are withheld to avoid disclosure of sensitive information

Royal Air Force—Officers[1]

	Financial Year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Senior Officers	80	59	—
Junior Officers	30	35	13

[1] Figures are provisional.

Royal Air Force—Other Ranks[1]

	Financial Year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Senior Ranks	594	341	42

Royal Air Force—Other Ranks[1]

	Financial Year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Junior Ranks	524	607	177

[1] Figures are provisional.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-UK nationals of each nationality are serving in each unit of the armed services. [277253]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of non-UK nationals of each nationality serving in each unit cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. Data by service as at 1 April 2008 are provided in the following table:

Trained strength of UK regular forces[1] by service and nationality as at 1 April 2008[2]

	All services	*Army*	*Navy*	*RAF*
Total	168,620	93,830	34,530	40,260
British	161,040	87,270	33,750	40,260
Commonwealth[3]	6,580	6,000	530	40
Antiguan	—	—	—	—
Australian	80	60	20	—
Bahamian	—	—	—	—
Bangladeshi	10	10	—	—
Barbadian	10	10	—	—
Belizean	—	—	—	—
Botswanan	10	10	—	—
Bruneian	—	—	—	—
Cameroonian	30	30	—	—
Canadian	70	50	20	—
Citizen of Fiji	2,040	1,950	80	10
Citizen of Sri Lanka	10	10	—	—
Citizen of St. Kitts	—	—	—	—
Cypriot	—	—	—	—
Dominican	20	20	—	—
Gambian	120	110	10	—
Ghanian	660	650	10	—
Grenadian	50	50	—	—
Guyanese	20	20	—	—
Indian	60	60	10	—
Jamaican	740	700	30	10
Kenyan	120	110	10	—
Malawian	130	130	—	—
Malaysian	10	—	—	—
Maltese	10	—	—	—
Mauritian	30	30	—	—
Namibian	—	—	—	—
New Zealander	80	60	10	—
Nigerian	80	80	—	—
Other Commonwealth	10	10	—	—
Other West Indian	—	—	—	—
Pakistani	10	10	—	—
Papua New Guinean	—	—	—	—
Saint Helenian	—	—	—	—
Saint Lucian	200	200	10	—
Seychellois	10	10	—	—
Sierra Leonean	40	40	—	—
Singaporean	—	—	—	—
South African	770	710	60	—
Swazi	10	10	—	—

Trained strength of UK regular forces[1] by service and nationality as at 1 April 2008[2]

	All services	Army	Navy	RAF
Tanzanian	—	—	—	—
Tongan	10	10	—	—
Trinidadian	100	70	30	—
Ugandan	50	50	—	—
Vincentian	430	240	190	—
Zambian	20	20	—	—
Zimbabwean	480	460	20	—
Other	360	280	60	20
Afghan	—	—	—	—
American	—	—	—	—
Austrian	—	—	—	—
Danish	—	—	—	—
Dutch	—	—	—	—
Egyptian	—	—	—	—
Foreign	10	10	—	—
French	—	—	—	—
German	—	—	—	—
Hong Kong/Chinese	—	—	—	—
Irish	280	200	60	20
Iranian	—	—	—	—
Iraqi	—	—	—	—
Libyan	—	—	—	—
Mauritanian	—	—	—	—
Nepalese	60	60	—	—
Norwegian	—	—	—	—
Pacific Islander	—	—	—	—
Saudi Arabian	—	—	—	—
Sudanese	—	—	—	—
Swedish	—	—	—	—
Swiss	—	—	—	—
Ukrainian	—	—	—	—
Unknown[4]	640	270	200	170

"—" denotes zero or rounded to zero.

[1] Trained UK regular forces exclude Gurkhas, full-time reserve personnel and mobilised reservists.

[2] Provisional.

[3] Includes Zimbabwean and Fijian citizens, who continue to retain Commonwealth status under the British Nationality Act 1981.

[4] Those with an unrecorded nationality.

Note:

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all services strength statistics for 1 April 2008 are provisional and subject to review.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-UK nationals of each nationality were serving in the armed forces in each of the last 10 years. [277254]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows the strength of trained UK Regular Forces as at 1 April 2007 and 2008 by nationality. Nationality data for all three services are only available since April 2007 post introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration System.

All UK Regular Forces[1, 2], trained strength by nationality

	April 2007	April 2008
Total	172,910	166,620
British	165,780	161,460
Commonwealth[3]	6,500	6,500
Antiguan	—	—
Australian	90	80
Bahamian	—	—
Bangladeshi	10	10
Barbadian	20	10
Belizean	—	—
Botswanan	10	10

All UK Regular Forces[1,2], trained strength by nationality

	April 2007	*April 2008*
Bruneian	—	—
Cameroonian	20	10
Canadian	80	70
Citizen of Fiji	1,990	2,040
Citizen of Sri Lanka	10	10
Citizen of St. Kitts	—	—
Cypriot	—	—
Dominican	10	20
Gambian	80	120
Ghanaian	610	660
Grenadian	50	50
Guyanese	20	20
Indian	50	60
Jamaican	920	740
Kenyan	100	120
Malawian	100	130
Malaysian	10	10
Maltese	10	10
Mauritian	20	30
Namibian	—	—
New Zealander	70	80
Nigerian	70	80
Other Commonwealth	10	10
Other West Indian	—	—
Pakistani	10	10
Papua New Guinean	—	—
St. Helenian	—	—
St. Lucian	220	200
Seychellois	10	10
Sierra Leonean	40	40
Singaporean	—	—
South African	740	770
Swazi	10	70
Tanzanian	—	—
Tongan	10	10
Trinidadian	90	100
Ugandan	40	50
Vincentian	420	430
Zambian	20	20
Zimbabwean	530	400
Other	310	360
Afghan	—	—
American	—	—
Austrian	—	—
Danish	—	—
Dutch	—	—
Egyptian	—	—
Foreign	—	10
French	—	—
German	—	—
Hong Kong/Chinese	—	—
Irish	200	200
Iranian	—	—
Iraqi	—	—
Libyan	—	—
Mauritanian	—	—
Nepalese	30	60
Norwegian	—	—
Pacific Islander	—	—
Saudi Arabian	10	—
Sudanese	—	—
Swedish	—	—
Swiss	—	—

All UK Regular Forces[1] [2], trained strength by nationality

	April 2007	April 2008
Ukrainian	—	—
Unknown[4]	300	640

"—" Denotes zero or rounded to zero.

[1] Trained UK Regular Forces exclude Gurkhas, full-time reserve personnel and mobilised reservists.

[2] Denotes provisional.

[3] Includes Zimbabwean and Fijian citizens, who continue to retain Commonwealth status under the British Nationality Act 1981.

[4] Those with an unrecorded nationality.

Due to ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration System, all services strength statistics for 1 April 2007 and 1 April 2008 are provisional and subject to review.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of *(a)* meningitis, *(b)* food poisoning, *(c)* pneumonia and *(d)* gastroenteritis have been recorded among members of the armed forces serving in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [277006]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many voids there were in the married quarters estate in each month since 1997. [276801]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many married quarters of each standard of condition in the married quarters estate there were in each year since 1997. [276802]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Although figures for 1997 and 1998 are not available, those UK Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties assessed for their Standard for Condition (SfC) were at the following standard in each year since 1999:

	S1fC	S2fC	S3fC	S4fC	Total
1999	3,412	20,194	30,174	2,242	56,022
2000	12,750	28,352	15,667	605	57,374
2001	15,623	31,936	7,061	1,078	55,698
2002	20,699	26,007	4,877	349	51,932
2003	23,827	23,772	3,481	203	51,283
2004	25,276	22,215	3,083	146	50,720
2005	26,426	20,774	2,792	195	50,187
2006	28,796	18,950	2,309	159	50,214
2007	29,691	17,910	2,165	145	49,911
2008	28,354	17,414	2,098	109	47,975

Like for like figures are not available for the overseas SFA estate.

For the latest number of SFA in England and Wales at each SfC I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 43-44WS. As at March 2009, SFA in Scotland was at the following SFC:

SfC	Properties
S1fC	3,120
S2fC	102
S3fC	5

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the new spend on *(a)* each married quarters estate and *(b)* married quarters in total (i) was in 2008-09 and (ii) is projected to be in each of the next five years. [276803]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2008-09 the Ministry of Defence spent some £48 million on new projects and upgrades relating to its worldwide holdings of Service Family Accommodation (SFA). Of this expenditure around £40 million was in respect of SFA in the UK, £7 million in Cyprus and £1 million in Germany.

A breakdown of the major elements of expenditure on the UK SFA, by location is shown in the following table.

Location	£ million
Abingdon	0.8
Aldershot	1.1
Brize Norton	1.0
Blandford	5.9
Bulford	0.4
Catterick	0.2
Chester	6.0
Chicksands	2.0
Colchester	0.7
Coningsby	0.7
Cranwell	0.2
Craigiehall	0.5
Elgin	0.4
Giffnock/Hampden	0.2
High Wycombe	1.5
Leeming	1.6
Leuchars	0.4
Lisburn, Northern Ireland	4.1
Innsworth	2.0
Invicta Park	3.5
Peninsular Towers, London	0.4
Warminster	0.8
Williams Gardens, Putney	3.0
Total	37.4

The Department was planning to spend £48 million in each year of the next five years on the upgrade of SFA to its highest standard for condition. However as the hon. Member will know from the Budget statement on 22 April 2009, this Department is bringing forward £50 million to be spent on accommodation.

The details of this expenditure have yet to be determined. I will write to the hon. Member when a decision has been taken.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many surplus married quarters he expects to have been ceded to Annington Homes without compensation to the Exchequer by the end of 2009-10. [illegible]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The decision was made in early 1996 to sell some 57,428 Service Family Accommodation (SFA) to Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL), of which some 55,055 were immediately leased back in order to provide accommodation for entitled service personnel and their families.

When it is identified that there is no future requirement for properties, the leases are terminated and the properties returned to AHL. Since 1996 the MOD has handed back some 16,751 SFA.

As the properties are not owned by the MOD, compensation is not payable when leases are terminated. The onward sale or disposal of properties is a matter for the company. However, the 1996 Sale Agreement included a profit-share whereby the Exchequer receives a percentage of any profit made on the subsequent disposal of properties and land that form a part of any release to the company. To date the Exchequer has received approximately £156 million under the terms of this agreement.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many emergency maintenance requests were made for properties occupied by service personnel and their families in each month since October 2007; and what the average time was for requested maintenance to take place. [277258]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The requested information is not held centrally and will take a little time to collate and verify. I will write to the hon. Member.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many mortgage interest payments were made by his Department to service personnel with second homes required for their work in each of the last 10 years; how much was paid for such purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Hutton: None. There is no mechanism for service personnel to receive mortgage interest payments for any type of property they may have a financial interest in.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many residents of *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland serving in the UK armed forces have been injured in enemy action in the last year. [illegible]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data on injuries suffered by armed forces personnel who are resident of a specific location are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Medals

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department takes to *(a)* verify and *(b)* validate accounts of the actions of soldiers for which they are given awards for gallantry. [276812]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The integrity of the operational honours system is a matter of the utmost importance to the MOD. The award of Operational Honours is an independent military activity. Commanding Officers in the field initiate recommendations for awards, having gathered evidence and corroborated the incidents contained therein. These recommendations are then screened at various levels in the military chain of command and passed to a committee comprising senior military officers, all with operational experience, who decide the appropriate awards.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average annual pension payment received by a retired British soldier has been in each year since 1997. [276666]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The available average annual amount paid to AFPS members for all three services for each year since 1999 are as follows:

Financial year	*Average pension payment (£)*
1999-2000	5,493
2000-01	5,698
2001-02	5,941
2002-03	6,154
2003-04	6,405
2004-05	6,739
2005-06	6,736
2006-07	6,728
2007-08	6,941

Information for financial years 1997-98 and 1998-99 are no longer held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for 2008-09 are still being finalised.

The figures provided are based on average pensions paid to former members of the armed forces, their spouses, and dependants. Figures provided are not held in the format requested to reflect average pensions paid to veterans alone. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The figures do not include any Terminal Grants or Commutations paid to AFPS members.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former members of the armed forces in each region have re-enlisted to each *(a)* service and *(b)* trade in each year since 2000. [273585]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: None of the three Services is able to provide this information by region, as it is not held in the format requested. Information for the Naval Service is available broken down by trade, but this is not possible for the Army and Royal Air Force as the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Total numbers of personnel that have re-enlisted in each year are provided in the following tables.

Re-enlistment into the Naval Service by Trade—Officers[1]

	Financial Year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Warfare	—	—	2
Air	—	8	9
Engineering	—	—	2
Logistics	—	2	3

[1] Figures provided include transfers to the Naval Service from the Army and RAF, and also between RN and RM, in addition to personnel having had previous service in the RN or RM. The numbers include all re-entrants: Trained, those not requiring Phase 2 training; Part-trained, those requiring only Phase 2 training; and untrained, those requiring Phase 1 training.

Re-enlistment into the Naval Service by Trade—Other Ranks

	Financial Year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Warfare	55	31	66
Air	9	8	18
Engineering	66	36	78
Logistics	34	22	24
Medical	8	4	7
Other[1]	1	3	3

[1] Photographer and Physical trainer.

Re-enlistment into the Naval Service—Royal Marines—Officers and Other Ranks

	Financial Year		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Officers	—	2	4
Other Ranks	91	128	103

Re-enlistment into the Army—Officers and Other Ranks

	Financial Year			
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of personnel	260	385	512	486

Re-enlistment into the Royal Air Force—Officers and Other Ranks

	Financial Year			
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of personnel	10	10	18	13

No information is shown for earlier years because these data are not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Retirement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications for extension of service from members of the armed forces approaching retirement have been declined in each year since 2000. [277525]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Manpower

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average percentage shortfall against requirement for the infantry rank of *(a)* private and *(b)* lieutenant colonel was in each year since 2003. [275225]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The available data on average percentage surplus or shortfall of privates and lieutenant colonels for the infantry are provided in the following table. Consistent infantry requirement data for 2003 and 2004 are not available at the level of detail requested.

Percentage

Financial year	*Lieutenant Colonel (surplus)*	*Private (shortfall)*
2005-06	12.7	-2.6
2006-07	10.9	-6.3
2007-08	12.5	-10.5
2008-09[1]	13.4	-9.8

[1] Based on first 11 months of the financial year.

Notes:

1. The figures are for trained Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, TA and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
2. The information is based on paid rank.

Astute Class Submarines

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Astute-class submarine from the *(a)* direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), *(b)* indirect resource DEL and *(c)* capital DEL was at 31 March (i) 2001, (ii) 2002, (iii) 2003, (iv) 2004, (v) 2005, (vi) 2006, (vii) 2007, (viii) 2008 and (ix) 2009. [275058]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is detailed in the following table. The figures include the cost of the Assessment, Demonstration and Manufacture Phases.

£ million

	As at 31 March each year							
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Direct Resource DEL	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
Indirect Resource DEL	442	471	694	667	666	651	655	663
Capital DEL	2,256	2,236	3,016	2,817	2,826	3,005	3,143	3,143
Total	2,727	2,736	3,739	3,513	3,521	3,685	3,827	3,835

I am withholding the figure for 31 March 2009 as this information is intended for future publication in the Major Projects Report 2009.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Expenditure

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the expenditure incurred at the Atomic Weapons Establishment of £800 million in 2008-09, £900 million in 2009-10 and £950 million in 2010-11 is additional to *(a)* the capital cost of warheads included in the Defence White Paper, *(b)* the £5.3 billion 25 year AWEML and management contract, *(c)* the running costs of the current Trident programme and *(d)* settlements made under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [271399]

Mr. Hutton: The figure of £5.3 billion was the estimated 25-year management and operation costs produced when the AWE Management and Operation contract was extended to a 25 year term. This was published on 22 January 2003, *Official Report*, column 14WS. Since 1 April 2008 the financial planning for AWE has made no distinction between these costs and additional investment associated with the Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NWCSP), which was announced on 19 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 59WS. The figures of £800, £900 and £950 million quoted therefore comprise both additional NWCSP investment and the underlying management and operation costs for the years in question.

There is no programme to develop a new warhead at AWE. The December 2006 White Paper Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994) refers, in paragraph 5-11, to

> "£2-3 billion for the possible future refurbishment or replacement of the warhead".

The decision on whether to refurbish or replace the warhead has yet to be made and will likely be necessary in the next Parliament. This cost is not reflected in any of the figures quoted in the question.

In service costs of the current Trident programme were provided in a response to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker), on 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1302W. These did not include the cost of AWE.

Finally, the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review White Paper (Cm 7227), made clear in paragraph D8.7 that additional NWCSP funding, (which is incorporated within the £800, £900 and £950 million figures) was provided to continue the programme of investment in sustaining key skills and facilities at AWE,

> "both to ensure we can maintain our existing nuclear warhead for as long as necessary and to enable development of a replacement warhead should that be necessary".

Concept for Special Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the EU *(a)* Concept for Special Operations and *(b)* Military Rapid Response concept. [277522]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will place a copy of the EU Military Rapid Response Concept in the Library of the House. I am withholding the document requested on the Concept for Special Operations as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Defence

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian staff of his Department carried out work on the 1998 Strategic Defence Review; which other Departments provided staff to carry out such work; what discussions his Department had with the governments of other countries during that review; how many days were taken to complete it; and how much was spent on it. [277636]

Mr. Hutton: A very wide range of civilian and military staff carried out work on the 1998 Strategic Defence Review. The Department also received over one hundred inputs from staff as part of the consultation process. An exact record of the number of staff who contributed work is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The first stage of the review was conducted jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in consultation with the Cabinet Office. The Treasury were informed at all stages. The Department of Trade and Industry were involved in all work with industrial ramifications. The views of all Departments on the options arising from the review work were gauged within a Cabinet Office inter-departmental committee.

Our NATO allies and other partners were kept fully informed of the process during the period of the review. The NATO and WEU Secretary Generals, Defence Ministers of NATO allies and Five Power Defence Arrangements and Gulf Co-operations Councils were kept informed in letters and at a broad range of NATO and bilateral meetings.

The review was announced on 28 May 1997 and published on 8 July 1998.

The exact cost of the review is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, we assess the cost to be in the region of £2.3 million. This does not include normal staff costs, as all MOD staff involved in the work completed it as part of their day to day activities.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency: Finance

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the surplus of income over expenditure was at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency base at Crombie in each of the last five years. [276721]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Over the last five years there has been no surplus of income over expenditure at any of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) bases, including Crombie.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency: Location

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons it was decided not to transfer the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency base at Crombie to the Clyde. [276720]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Due to changes in the MOD's maritime business there was a need to conduct further analysis into the future requirement for the provision of support services by DSDA Crombie and it was decided it would be unwise to transfer the ownership of the site before this work was completed.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency: Manpower

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received from Commander-in-Chief Fleet on the minimum number of posts required to ensure the safe conduct of operations at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, Crombie. [276717]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No such representations have been received from Commander-in-Chief Fleet.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Defence Equipment and Support risk register for the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency base at Crombie includes a minimum staff requirement. [276718]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The minimum staff requirement does not appear on the DE&S risk register but is recorded on the technical site risk register. Also, DSDA is undertaking a study looking at DSDA Crombie's future tasking. In common with all similar projects, a risk register is being produced that will include staffing matters and articulate any perceived risks.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the recommendation of the Investments Approval Board was on the minimum number of posts for the safe conduct of operations at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency base at Crombie. [276719]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In February 2006, The Future Role of Crombie Study made recommendations as to the future role and manpower requirements at DSDA Crombie. These recommendations were approved by the then Minister of State for Armed Forces. At the time it was determined that 26 posts would enable the safe and effective running of DSDA Crombie, as the site was to reduce to that of a jetty/waterfront support operation upon the intended drawdown of explosive storage and processing activity by 31 March 2010. Prior to the full implementation of the recommendations, additional work was transferred to Crombie from other DSDA sites, which brought with it an increase in manpower of 14 posts, although future manpower requirements at the site are still being considered. I will write when this work is finalised.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274450]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Information on services outsourced is held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the MOD's PFI commitments is published in our Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House and are available online under the MOD's Freedom of Information Publication Scheme, found at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the post of Director General Safety and Security in his Department is a full-time appointment. [277521]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Following a change in naming convention, the position of Director Business Resilience replaced that of Director General Security and Safety; it is a full-time post. In keeping with civil service policy on promoting work force diversity and alternative working patterns, full-time positions can be filled by one or more individuals with flexible-working contracts, provided the Department is satisfied that the key outputs of the post can be maintained. The Director Business Resilience post is currently filled on this basis.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years. [277159]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department is unable to provide this information as it is not held in the format requested. However, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on recruitment advertising on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 23-24W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Departmental Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 311-12W, on official cars, how many of the cars leased by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are over six years old. [276776]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Only two of the vehicles leased by the Ministry of Defence are over six years old.

Departmental Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many breaches of security have been reported at *(a)* the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, *(b)* the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, *(c)* the Defence Support Group, *(d)* the Defence Vetting Agency, *(e)* the Meteorological Office, *(f)* the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency, *(g)* the People, Pay and Pensions Agency, *(h)* Service Children's Education, *(i)* the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency and *(j)* the UK Hydrographic Office in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276947]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD units are not required to centrally report all breaches of security and therefore the requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The procedures followed when breaches occur are in accordance with the Defence Manual of Security and additionally, in respect of data losses, a Defence Instruction designed to meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act and the Information Commissioner.

Departmental Surveys

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what surveys of *(a)* service personnel, *(b)* service families, *(c)* veterans and *(d)* the public his Department has conducted in the last 12 months. [275012]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence keeps all its activities, processes and structures under regular review. As a result, a wide range of internal and external reports, surveys and studies are carried out periodically to collect information on the attitudes, opinions and circumstances of both civilian employees, service personnel, service families, veterans and others dealing with the Department. Information on these is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on veterans of closures of dedicated military hospitals and wards for veterans. [277370]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The decision to close most of our military hospitals was taken over a decade ago, after it had become clear that they did not have a sufficient patient volume or range of military cases to develop and maintain the skills of our medical personnel.

On a typical day we have barely enough military inpatients, in all NHS hospitals across the UK, to fill two wards. This would be insufficient to sustain even a single, low-level civilian hospital and would require all patients to be brought together in one location, which in many cases would involve a major disruption for families and friends as well as for the patient. Meeting the health needs of veterans is the responsibility of the NHS and in the main their needs will reflect the health needs of the wider population. The same argument of not sending patients to a single dedicated hospital to keep it viable would apply equally to the national veteran patient population.

The House of Commons Defence Select Committee agreed with the policy finding:

> "the arguments in favour of the closure of the stand-alone Service hospitals irresistible. We accept that the reduction in numbers of personnel which took place in the Armed Forces after the end of the Cold War meant that there was insufficient patient volume to make the military hospitals viable in the long term."

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have worked in field hospitals during each roulement of Operation *(a)* Telic and *(b)* Herrick; and how many and what proportion of such personnel were reservist medical personnel. [277526]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following tables summarise data available from centrally held records for service personnel for the period January 2003 to April 2009. They represent instances, at one point in time in each roulement, showing the current and planned manning for that roulement.

Service personnel deployed within field hospitals: Op Telic

Telic	*Established posts*	*Total personnel*	*Of which reservists*	*As a percentage*
1 (January 2003-May 2003)	939	939	167	18
2 (May 2003-November 2003)	173	189	18	10
3 (November 2003-May 2004)	154	192	40	21
4 (May 2004-August 2004)	128	187	168	82
4a (August 2004-November 2004)	127	198	106	49
5 (November 2004-May 2005)	116	213	37	17
6 (May 2005-November 2005)	116	223	93	42
7 (November 2005-May 2006)	116	204	22	11
8 (May 2006-November 2006)	98	192	28	15
9 (November 2006-June 2007)	98	161	9	6
10 (June 2007-December 2007)	105	162	7	4
11 (December 2007-June 2008)	105	174	11	6
12 (June 2008-December 2008)	92	178	16	9

Service personnel deployed within field hospitals: Op Herrick

Herrick	*Established posts*	*Total personnel*	*Of which reservists*	*As a percentage*
4 (April 2006-October 2006)	94	145	3	2
5 (October 2006-April 2007)	98	163	13	8
6 (April 2007-October 2007)	99	203	150	74
7 (October 2007-April 2008)	121	256	132	52
8 (April 2008-October 2008)	121	259	138	53
9 (October 2008-April 2009)	124	228	11	5

Source:
Operational establishment tables, January 2003 to April 2009.

The number of posts can vary during the course of a roulement as a response to operational requirements.

It should also be noted that the numbers of personnel deployed will usually exceed the number of established posts due to variations in tour lengths depending on speciality. Some individuals will have deployed on more than one roulement; therefore the total number of individuals who deployed over the whole period 2003-09 is less than the sum of the total personnel per roulement.

Military Aid: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to ensure that relevant advisory expertise from *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the armed forces is available in the event of an emergency occasioned by floods. [277448]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is fully involved in preparing for a national, regional and local flood. It maintains a network of military joint regional liaison officers who advise on Defence assistance through the Government offices for the regions and contribute to local and regional resilience forums and crisis management groups. The MOD's head office provides advice to the Civil Contingencies Secretariat and other Government Departments on what can be provided in the event of a national flood to aid emergency planning.

The Met Office also keep in direct contact through their National Severe Weather Warning Service and as a partner in the Flood Forecasting Centre, providing weather services to emergency responders, Government, business and the public ahead of, during and after periods of severe weather and flooding.

Following the publication of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the 2007 floods, the MOD and Cabinet Office have recently improved existing central response mechanisms to ensure Defence expertise is available, in an advisory capacity, where existing local or regional arrangements are severely stretched. These changes are now in place but will be formally published in the revised Central Government Concept of Operations which is expected this summer. Further information is available at the following link:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience.aspx

Multinational Space-based Imaging System

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel in his Department are working on the (i) Multinational Space-based Imaging System and (ii) the European Defence Agency's Space Situational Awareness programme. [277633]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Currently no personnel in the Department, military or civilian, participate in either the Multinational Space-based Imaging System or the European Defence Agency's Space Situational Awareness programme. We observe developments in both of these programmes and have the option to participate in the future.

Nuclear Submarines: Decommissioning

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when his Department will commence formal discussions with Plymouth City Council on the decommissioning of nuclear submarines at Devonport Royal Dockyard; [277287]

(2) when he expects the public consultation on the decommissioning of nuclear submarines at Devonport Royal Dockyard to begin. [277288]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A decision on the location of the dismantling site has not yet been made. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Submarine Dismantling Project will consider location options for both the dismantling site and the interim storage of the resulting Intermediate Level Waste. Engagement with local councils on both dismantling and storage sites will take place as part of the public consultation period for the SEA. This is planned to begin towards the end of 2009 and to complete in spring 2010.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned dates of decommissioning are of *(a)* each of the Royal Navy's Trafalgar class submarines and *(b)* its Swiftsure submarine. [275532]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Against current planning assumptions, which are regularly reviewed, the out of service dates for the remaining Swiftsure and Trafalgar Class submarines are shown in the following table.

Out of service date	*Vessel*
Trafalgar Class	
2009	HMS Trafalgar
2011	HMS Turbulent
2013	HMS Tireless
2017	HMS Torbay
2019	HMS Trenchant
2021	HMS Talent
2022	HMS Triumph
Swiftsure Class	
2010	HMS Sceptre

Territorial Army: Gurkhas

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former Gurkha regulars are serving in the Territorial Army. [277255]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

White Phosphorus

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any munitions containing white phosphorus manufactured in the UK have been used in theatres of operation involving UK armed forces in the last 10 years. [277076]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK armed forces inventory does include some white phosphorous munitions that were manufactured in the UK. They were manufactured over 10 years ago and have been used by UK forces in theatres of operation within the last 10 years to protect troops on operations by producing a smoke screen to provide cover.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of directing those banks in public and part-public ownership to increase lending to projects promoting a sustainable future. [270347]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) has been set up to manage the Government's investments in financial institutions as an active and engaged shareholder, operating on a commercial basis and at arm's length from Government.

The framework document between HM Treasury and UKFI sets a requirement that UKFI will not intervene in the day-to-day management decisions of investee companies. The companies will retain their own independent boards, which will manage the banks and determine their strategy. Decisions relating to whether to lend to individuals or firms, and the terms of those loans, remain commercial matters for banks.

However, where financial institutions take part in the Asset Protection Scheme, the Government have negotiated quantified lending agreements. RBS and Lloyds have, as part of this, agreed to make substantial extra lending available to individuals and firms in the coming year.

HM Treasury and UKFI does not comment on individual products offered by or commercial decisions taken by its investee companies.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what has been the cost to the public purse of the Government buying shares in banks. [276619]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 687, to the hon. Member for Gosport (Sir Peter Viggers).

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has accrued to the Exchequer in capital gains tax receipts in each financial year since 2004. [277434]

Mr. Timms: Annual receipts of capital gains tax are available in the National Statistics Table 1.2 available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/menu.htm

Church of Scientology: Non-domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 382W, on the Church of Scientology, whether the Valuation Office Agency recognises venues of the Church of Scientology as places of public worship eligible for an exemption from non-domestic rates. [277023]

Mr. Timms: It is for the Valuation Officers of the Valuation Office Agency to decide whether any hereditament is a place of public religious worship which is exempt from non-domestic rates in accordance with Paragraph 11 of Schedule 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. In general, following an Appeal Court decision in 1970, Valuation Officers do not regard premises occupied by the Church of Scientology as being so exempt.

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for updating his Department's Green Book guidance to enable climate change adaptation to be taken into account in his Department's decision-making processes. [277395]

Angela Eagle: Officials from DEFRA and a number of other Departments including the Treasury have been working on supplementary Green Book guidance to enable adaptation to climate change to be taken into account in the decision process. It is planned that this will be issued during the summer and made available to all Departments through the Treasury's Green Book website.

Committee of European Securities Regulators

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions he has had on the role and powers of the Committee of European Securities Regulators; and if he will make a statement; [277185]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on the role and powers of the Committee of European Banking Supervisors; and if he will make a statement. [277186]

Ian Pearson: The Government have regular discussions with European colleagues on EU supervisory and regulatory arrangements.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275193]

Angela Eagle: Neither the Treasury nor its agencies have any record of interest payments having been made under the Late Payment of Commercial Debt (Interest) Act 1998.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff are employed in the private office of each Minister in his Department; and at what annual cost to the public purse. [271174]

Angela Eagle: Public sector staffing costs are set out annually as part of Departments' annual resource accounts. The Treasury Group's audited accounts for 2008-09 will be published later this year.

The following table sets out details of the number of staff employed in each ministerial office in the Treasury. This includes five members of staff on secondment who continue to be paid by their home Departments.

Minister	*Number of full-time equivalent staff*
Chancellor of the Exchequer	11
Chief Secretary	8
Exchequer Secretary	5
Economic Secretary	5
Financial Secretary	6
Financial Services Secretary (since October 2008)	5

Excise Duties: Fuel Oil

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's estimate is of the amount which will be raised in revenue from *(a)* private cars, *(b)* light commercial vehicles, *(c)* heavy goods vehicles and *(d)* public service vehicles by the two pence increase in fuel duty announced in the 2009 Budget in its first 12 months. [276148]

Angela Eagle: As fuel duty is paid by fuel producers at the point when finished fuel products leave the relevant refinery or import terminal, the Treasury does not hold data for fuel duty revenues disaggregated by end use. Forecasts of the overall revenue gain expected from the 1 September 2009 fuel duty increase can be found in Table A.1 on page 153 of the 2009 Budget.

Food

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of waste food disposed of from his Department's premises in the last 12 months. [273435]

Angela Eagle: There is no methodology currently in place to assess the value of waste food disposed of from Treasury buildings.

For 2008-09, 21,040 kg of waste food was disposed of as part of the food waste recycling programme, introduced in March 2008. Through this, food waste is removed from the building and transported to a biogas plant where it is subjected to an anaerobic digestion process. In addition, the process produces fertilizer and electricity as by-products.

Housing: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what spending on housing was as a percentage of Government spending in each year since 1997. [277666]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1509-10W.

Income Tax

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of altering the basic rate of income tax. [276663]

Mr. Timms: All taxes are kept under review. Any decisions taken are announced in the usual manner at Budget or in the pre-Budget report.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the retention of landfill tax receipts by local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [274930]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has regular discussions with Defra about a wide range of issues. The costs of landfill tax from the Budget 2007 announcement were taken into account when agreeing the local government settlement in the 2007 comprehensive spending review. Decisions on future funding of local authorities are a matter for the next spending review.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 419W, on public expenditure, on what date his Department's withdrawal of support for the Overseas Price Mechanism took effect; and if he will make a statement. [267825]

Yvette Cooper: HM Treasury included the final OPM adjustment in the 2008 spring supplementary estimate.

Regional Ministers

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Permanent Secretary of his Department has authorised expenditure on travel costs for the Parliamentary assistant to the Minister for the North East in accordance with the circumstances envisaged in the Cabinet Secretary's letter to Permanent Secretaries of 2 December 2008. [267160]

Angela Eagle: The role of Minister for the North East is within the portfolio of my right hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, East and Wallsend (Mr. Brown), who is assisted in those duties by my hon. Friend the Member for City of Durham (Dr. Blackman-Woods). The duties and responsibilities of the Minister for the North East are not matters for the Treasury. I can confirm though that my hon. Friend the Member for City of Durham (Dr. Blackman-Woods) has met her own travel costs and no claims for expenditure on travel have been submitted.

Revenue and Customs: Complaints

Mr. Gale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of compliance of the complaints system in place at HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Ty-Glas with the national HMRC complaints procedures. [277105]

Mr. Timms: There is no site-specific assessment for the level of compliance with the complaints system for Ty-Glas. Assurance that HMRC's complaints handling IT system is used in line with national guidelines is managed by Directorate rather than geographical site. Several HMRC Directorates have operations at Ty-Glas.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centres in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [277510]

Mr. Timms: The following table provides the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff employed in HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) Inquiry Centres since they became a single business stream in July 2005 shortly after HMRC came into being in April 2005.

As at 31 March:	*Inquiry centre FTE staff*
2006	1,465
2007	1,633
2008	1,546
2009	1,538

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 722W, on stamp duty land tax, what assumptions were made about the take-up rate of the stamp duty land tax holiday in calculating the estimated cost of £280 million; [275773]

(2) what recent assessment has been made of the effect on the housing market of the temporary £175,000 stamp duty land tax threshold. [275859]

Ian Pearson: The stamp duty holiday announced on 2 September 2008 provides Government support for homebuyers at a time of difficult conditions. Data on property transactions can be found at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/index.htm.

The estimated cost of the stamp duty holiday of £280 million was based on the most recent SDLT receipt data and accounting for expected changes in house prices, transactions and behavioural effects available at the time of the pre-Budget report. The Treasury does not publish forecasts of house prices or transaction volumes.

The cost was updated at Budget 2009 to take account of the latest information available and the extension of the holiday to 31 December 2009. Our latest estimate puts the cost of the original holiday at £250 million, with an additional cost of £90 million for the extension to December 2009.

Around 90,000 transactions (in addition to those falling below the original £125,000 threshold) have already been exempted from stamp duty by the holiday. Looking ahead the Treasury expects that around 210,000 transactions will benefit from the holiday in total, and that around 60,000 of these will benefit as a result of the extension announced at Budget.

Taxation: Construction

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to incentivise the use of reclaimed materials by granting value added tax rebates for building projects that incorporate recovered or salvaged materials; and if he will make a statement. [277495]

Mr. Timms: No. The Government have encouraged the use of reclaimed materials in building work through the Aggregates Levy. The levy has been a significant factor in reducing sales of virgin aggregates in England by around 18 million tonnes between 2001 and 2005, with an estimated increase in the use of recycled aggregate of nearly 6 million tonnes.

Valuation Office

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Locality Adjustment Factor table referred to in the MAT2 Case Worker Application User Guide. [270434]

Mr. Timms: The figures included in Locality Adjustment Factor tables are used by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) as an input to automated valuation modeling. The release of this information would prejudice the commercial interests of the VOA.

VAT: Repairs and Maintenance

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of reducing the rate of value added tax on home maintenance and repairs to the minimum rate allowed under EU law. [276838]

Mr. Timms: EU Finance Ministers recently agreed to allow all member states to apply a permanent reduced VAT rate of 5 per cent. to a list of labour intensive services, including the "renovation and repairing of private dwellings, excluding materials which account for a significant part of the value of the service supplied".

The Government apply reduced VAT rates only where we believe these would provide well-targeted and cost-effective support for its policy objectives, compared with other measures, and we continue to keep the impact of VAT on different types of building work under review.

Welfare Tax Credits: Fife

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals in North East Fife constituency have been *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid tax credits (i) once, (ii) twice and (iii) three or more times since April 2003. [276520]

Mr. Timms: The following table provides a snapshot of information on the number of families in the North East Fife constituency with one, two and three or more underpayments or overpayments of tax credits between 2003-04 and 2006-07. This is based on families who had a 2006-07 tax credit award and lived in North East Fife as at 31 August 2006. Information for 2007-08 is not yet available at parliamentary constituency level; more information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

Thousand
£

Regularity with which overpayment or underpayment of tax credits occurred	*Number of awards underpaid*	*Number of awards overpaid*
(a) Once	1.9	1.9
(b) Twice	0.5	1.0

Thousand

Regularity with which overpayment or underpayment of tax credits occurred	*Number of awards underpaid*	*Number of awards overpaid*
(c) Three or more times	0.1	0.4

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many overpayments of tax credit to residents of Carshalton and Wallington there were in the last 12 months; and what proportion of the number of tax credits for such residents this represents. [276684]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments by constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for 2003-04 to 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics, Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments, Geographical Analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Information for 2007-08 is not yet available at parliamentary constituency level. The geographical finalised awards publications have been delayed following a problem identified with the delivery of geographical information, although this does not affect the UK level statistics which were published on 19 May 2009. More information can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer Question 267825, tabled on 25 March 2009, on the overseas price mechanism. [277488]

Yvette Cooper: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277420]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not contested any actions under employment law at an employment tribunal.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275339]

Ann McKechin: The Office does not record this information in the form requested.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Security

David T.C. Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost to the public purse was of providing security for parts of the Parliamentary Estate occupied by the House of Commons in the latest period for which figures are available. [276730]

Nick Harvey: The resource cost was £20.7 million in 2008-09.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advantage West Midlands: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to Table 26 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 for Advantage West Midlands, what the nature was of the related party transaction made to *(a)* the Liberal Democrats, as declared by Ms Diane Rayner and *(b)* the Labour Party, as declared by Mr. Gerard Coyne. [274341]

Ian Pearson: In 2006, the agency paid £10,000 for exhibition space, and room hire at the Labour party conference in Manchester. In addition, payments of £200 were made to the Labour party for two-day passes to the conference. Mr. Gerard Coyne is a member of the Labour party and this therefore qualifies as a related party transaction.

No payments were made to the Liberal Democrats in 2006 and therefore no disclosure was made by Ms Diane Rayner in that period.

The Related Party Transaction disclosure documents the level of financing that AWM has provided directly to organisations that board members have an interest in, as declared in their register of interests. The individual is considered to have an interest in the transaction only inasmuch as they have a relationship with both AWM and the organisation in question.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance his Department provides to individuals in financial difficulty; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [276870]

Mr. Thomas: The Department provides a broad package of support to individuals in financial difficulties.

Since 2006, we have run the Face-to-Face Debt Advice Project, employing around 500 advisers in England and Wales, which has now helped over 220,000 people. We are responsible for the Government's drive to tackle illegal money lending, operating a network of enforcement teams nationwide, in which we have invested £16.5 million. We have invested an extra £10 million in the Citizens Advice network to increase their opening hours to help consumers access general advice services in the recession; and we now provide £3.5 million each year to the freephone National Debtline phone service (increased from £1 million last year to deal with extra demand in the recession).

The Department receives frequent representations from stakeholders on our assistance programmes.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average time taken by his Department to *(a)* acknowledge and *(b)* respond to letters from hon. and right hon. Members was in the latest period for which figures are available. [275444]

Mr. Thomas: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' correspondence. The report for 2008 was published on 1 April 2009. This report and reports for earlier years are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274513]

Mr. Thomas: The Department (including UKTI) has spent the following on conference services in the last five years:

	£
2004-05	1,765,251
2005-06	2,043,380
2006-07	938,688
2007-08	348,111
2008-09	929,585

The Department does not distinguish or have an Accounting Code entitled "banqueting services", so no expenditure has been recorded under this title.

Departmental Public Relations

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department h[illegible] discussions with (i) Brunswick and (ii) Alan Pa[illegible] matters within his Department's responsibility; and what matters were discussed on each occasion. [272380]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 5 May 2009]:* No Minister has had any discussions with either Brunswick or Alan Parker on matters within BERR's responsibility. Information about officials' meetings is not collected centrally and it would be disproportionately expensive to provide the information.

Domestic Violence

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contribution his Department has made to the cross-Government consultation, Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Children, and to the development of Government policy in this area. [274231]

Ian Pearson: The Violence Against Women and Girls consultation was launched by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Office on 9 March 2009. Although led by the Home Office, it is a cross-Government consultation.

This Department contributed to the consultation document, and BERR officials are members of the cross-Government steering group which met prior to the publication and will meet, following analysis of the consultation responses, to discuss each Department's input into the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. The consultation formally closed on 29 May 2009.

East Midlands Airport: Radio Frequencies

Ms Hewitt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the effect on the average ticket price of a flight from East Midlands Airport of the use by that airport of administered incentive pricing for the aeronautical radio spectrum. [274094]

Mr. Thomas: These are matters for the Office of Communication (Ofcom), the independent regulator for the UK communications industry, and I understand that Ofcom is explicitly considering the impact on East Midlands airport (as well as on others) and expects to publish a revised set of proposals, including impact assessment, in June.

EC Internal Trade

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effect on local authority *(a)* trading standards, *(b)* licensing, *(c)* e-government and *(d)* environmental health functions of implementation of the EU Services Directive. [270247]

Mr. Thomas: The effect of implementation of the directive was assessed in an independent report commissioned by the former DTI when it was being negotiated, which can be found at

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27515.pdf,

[illegible]nd BERR also published an impact assessment of its proposals for implementation in November 2007, but these assessments were not broken down into categories that correlate to the question. A revised impact assessment will be published in May this year and a final version will be published later this year.

BERR's assessment is that the most significant impact of the directive on local authorities will be to enable users to apply electronically and remotely for licences and authorisations in scope of the directive (including those that local authorities administer) through a Point of Single Contact (PSC) the Government are required to establish.

The PSC is being funded by BERR and delivered by Business Link. It will include provision for a central application process that local authorities can use, but will also enable them to utilise their own online facilities where these exist.

While the directive is likely to result in a minor increase to the consumer regulations that trading standards officers are able to enforce under the Enterprise Act 2002, it is not expected that this will result in any consequential increase in trading standards activity.

EU External Trade

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of arrangements for monitoring the diagonal culmination of origin between the EU, the Western Balkan countries and Turkey. [277129]

Mr. Thomas: No such assessment has been made. However, although the system of diagonal culmination between the Western Balkans and Turkey is a recent development, European Commission officials are understood to be content with the ability of the countries concerned to effectively control the culmination arrangements.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions third countries have imposed punitive tariffs on EU exports since 1997; and what estimate was made of the cost to the UK economy in each case. [277190]

Mr. Thomas: Information on punitive tariffs levied against the EU since 1997 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Nor is there any accepted definition of the term "punitive" in the context of tariffs. However, the World Trade Organisation publishes statistics on the number of Trade Defence measures (anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures) imposed by its members. Measures against the EU as a whole or some of its member states over 1997 to 2008 were as follows:

Anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures[1] levied against the European Union or individual member states, 1997 to 2008

	Against the EU as a whole	*Against the UK individually*	*Against other individual member states[2]*
Anti-dumping	47	18	164
Countervailing Duties	6	1	16
Safeguards	85	0	0

[1] Usually in the form of tariffs, but are sometimes in the form of quotas or other non-tariff restrictions.

[2] These numbers overstate the number of measures, as in some cases the same anti-dumping or countervailing measure is levied against a number of member states simultaneously, so there is some double-counting. For example, an anti-dumping measure levied against the EU as a whole would be recorded once, but a measure against France, Germany and the UK only would be recorded as three separate measures in the table.

Source:
World Trade Organisation.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274550]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Logistics: Bankruptcy

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many logistics companies in each region were *(a)* declared bankrupt and *(b)* ceased trading in the first quarter of 2009. [276156]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows:

(a) Company insolvency statistics are not available centrally broken down by both region and industry sector. Further, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) currently in use does not identify "logistics" as a composite industry grouping.

(b) Statistics on business closures are now published by the Office for National Statistics (also, previously, by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform). These are based on calendar years; the latest currently available covers 2007. The industry classification for these statistics is also the SIC, as for *(a)* above, so does not readily identify "logistics".

Companies House Executive agency maintains the register of companies and also records routine and event-based information on registered companies, according to the Companies Act and related legislation. Again, industry is classified according to the SIC 2003.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 14 January 2009 on the difficulties faced by a constituent's business. [268707]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 20 April 2009]*: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs responded to the right hon. Member on 13 May 2009. I apologise for the delay which was caused by the current high volume of correspondence.

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 20 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Northavon, sent on behalf of Mr R Woolley of Yate, on the small business finance scheme. [269020]

Ian Pearson: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 2 February 2009 from the hon. Member for Yeovil on links from the South West Regional Development Agency website; and if he will make a statement. [270868]

Mr. McFadden: I responded to the hon. Member on 1 April 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter of 14 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Smith, transferred to him by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [271027]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs responded to the letter from my right hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Gorton on 2 May. I apologise for the delay which was caused by the current high volume of correspondence.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to reply to the letter of 27 February 2009 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on his constituent, Mr. Paul Cook. [271671]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 28 April 2009]*: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letters of 26 February and 26 March 2009 from the hon. Member for Billericay on his constituent, Mr. Piechuta. [272324]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 May 2009]*: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter of 12 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. J. Parris. [273751]

Ian Pearson: I apologise to my right hon. Friend for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and my right hon. Friend will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the correspondence from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 13 February 2009 on dormant companies. [273820]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 8 May 2009]*: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 5 March 2009 on funding for pubs. [273821]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 8 May 2009]*: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letters of 23 February and 30 March 2009 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on loan guarantees for small businesses, reference FD5310. [274689]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 May 2009]*: Your letter of 23 February was not received by the Department but your letter of 30 March was.

I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Janet Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 6 April 2009 from the hon. Member for Rossendale and Darwen sent on behalf of Northern Joinery Ltd. of Whitworth in Rossendale. [274801]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 May 2009]*: I apologise to my hon. Friend for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and my hon. Friend will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to respond to the letter of 20 February 2009 from the hon. Member for Glasgow East on the difficulties encountered by small businesses in Glasgow. [275151]

Ian Pearson: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 6 February 2009, on his constituent's business. [275035]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 May 2009]*: I apologise to the right hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the right hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 3 March 2009, transferred from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, reference: 124365/SW, on information services. [273841]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 May 2009]*: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding, this is unacceptable and the hon. Member will receive a response from the relevant Minister shortly.

Royal Mail

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of employing consultants charged with the task of identifying suitable private sector partners for Royal Mail is; and if he will make a statement. [270902]

Mr. Thomas: The work on the partnership deal is on-going. It would not be appropriate to give an estimate of the cost of consultants' fees at this stage, as this remains subject to a range of variable factors. These include the length of the process and the number of interested parties.

Government will of course make the expenditure on consultants available once the deal has been completed and the overall costs are known.

Telephone Services: Hearing Impaired

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps Ofcom plans to take to enable deaf and hard of hearing people and sign language users to use the proposed pan-European 116 helpline numbers. [275432]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 May 2009]*: Ofcom have recently moved to Stage Two of a comparative selection process for the first three harmonised, pan-European 116 numbers for services of social value. At this stage—in a detailed assessment of applicants—Ofcom will be looking at how the bidding organisations address equality and diversity issues in their own workplaces, and how they will address equality and diversity in both relationships with callers and in promoting the services they offer. Bidding service provider (SP)/communications provider (CP) partnerships will also be required at this stage of the scrutiny to present on how they will handle calls from non-English speakers and citizens who cannot communicate effectively through the spoken word. The selection advisory committee can also stipulate and monitor conditions attached to the allocation and use of the number that will ensure ease of accessibility for all potential users of the service.

Ofcom published a response to the public consultation on allocation and charging for 116 numbers in the UK—which included representations from the deaf, hard of hearing and sign language user communities. This response, including an Impact and Equality assessment, is available on their website. Separately, Ofcom has recently launched a consultation "Access and Inclusion" which commits "to ensuring that disabled people can access communications services on an equivalent basis to others and propose to work to tackle the most critical issues that they face. This will include assessing the policy case for improving the existing text relay service".

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272120]

Mr. Woodward: My Department has only one building equipped with an air conditioning system with output greater than 250 kW for which we are directly responsible. Under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 we are required to have this system inspected by 4 January 2010 and we intend to do so.

We will place a copy of the report in the Library when it is available.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations came into force. [272125]

Mr. Woodward: To date nothing has been spent on carrying out inspections of our air conditioning systems in accordance with the regulations.

Under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008, for all systems first put into service on or after 30 December 2008, the first inspection must have taken place within five years of the date when it was first put into service; for air-conditioning systems where the effective rated output is more than 250 kW the first inspection must happen by 4 January 2010; and for other air-conditioning systems where the effective rated output is not more than 250 kW the first inspection must happen by 4 January 2011. We fully intend to comply with all these deadlines.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274444]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its agencies outsourced the following services which had previously been provided in-house in the Northern Ireland Office:

	Campaign	Department
2004-05	Internal Promotion Campaign	NI Prison Service
	External Recruitment Campaign	NI Prison Service
	Wide Area Network Management	IT Infrastructure
2005-06	Internal Promotion Campaign	NI Prison Service
	External Recruitment Campaign	NI Prison Service
	Wide Area Network Management	IT Infrastructure
	Gardening	Hillsborough Castle
2006-07	Internal Promotion Campaign	NI Prison Service
	External Recruitment Campaign	NI Prison Service
	HR transactional functions	Except NI Prison Service
	Wide Area Network Management	IT Infrastructure
	Gardening	Hillsborough Castle
2007-08	Internal Promotion Campaign	NI Prison Service
	External Recruitment Campaign	NI Prison Service
	HR transactional functions	Except NI Prison Service
	Wide Area Network Management	IT Infrastructure
	Cleaning Services	Forensic Science NI
	Gardening	Hillsborough Castle
	Security services	New Juvenile Justice Centre
2008-09	Internal Promotion Campaign	NI Prison Service
	External Recruitment Campaign	NI Prison Service
	HR transactional functions	Except NI Prison Service
	Wide Area Network Management	IT Infrastructure
	Cleaning Services	Forensic Science NI
	Gardening	Hillsborough Castle
	Security Services	New Juvenile Justice Centre

In making a decision to outsource the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies are mindful of their responsibility to achieve efficiencies and be cost-effective.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies on furniture in each of the last five years. [illegible]

Mr. Woodward: Departmental and agency expenditure on furniture in the last five years is shown in the following table:

£000

	Department	Agencies
2004-05	261	[illegible]
2005-06	[illegible]	149
2006-07	325	176
2007-08	[illegible]	226
2008-09	233	163

The Northern Ireland Office procures furniture across a number of sites which are mainly located in Belfast and London. This furniture is required to facilitate staff in providing a quality service and the expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Policing Board for Northern Ireland: Translation Services

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated cost of providing Irish translation services for Policing Board meetings is in the first 12 months in which such services will be required. [277321]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Northern Ireland Policing Board, which is independent of Government. The hon. Lady may wish to write to the Chief Executive of the Policing Board.

State Visits

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of the ceremonial protocol appropriate to visits to Northern Ireland by foreign heads of state. [276772]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

There is no standard ceremonial protocol appropriate to visits to Northern Ireland by foreign heads of state. Programmes for visits to the UK by foreign heads of state organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will be tailored to the circumstances of each visit and arranged in full co-operation with relevant parties.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to undertake research into personal carbon *(a)* trading and *(b)* rationing. [271286]

Joan Ruddock: The Government carried out an extensive study into personal carbon trading last year. This was one of a number of potential long term options being explored for making individuals better informed about, and involved in, tackling climate change. The aim was to try and understand the issues surrounding personal carbon trading better.

The study concluded that personal carbon trading has potential to engage individuals in taking action to combat climate change, but is essentially ahead of its time and expected costs for implementation are high. The findings are available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/individual/carbontrading

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he plans to have with his international counterparts on measures to tackle climate change before the meeting in Copenhagen. [274091]

Joan Ruddock: In the build-up to the UNFCCC Conference in Copenhagen this December my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be discussing climate change with his international counterparts in a number of multilateral discussions, including through the Major Economies Forum, UN and G8, and through a range of bilateral discussions during the year.

Already this year my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has undertaken bilateral visits to the United States and China. He expects to make further bilateral visits to countries including Russia, South Africa and India during the year. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State expects to attend next month's Greenland dialogue, hosted by the Danish Government, bringing together many countries involved in the preparations for Copenhagen.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will seek to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department by siting its data centres in the UK in the north of the UK. [274900]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not own or run any data centres.

Energy: Conservation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of his Department's employees have been engaged on the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation since the consultation began. [275591]

Joan Ruddock: DECC have two members of staff directly engaged on the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy Consultation with contributions from various officials across the Department (at least six) as and when appropriate.

Fuel Poverty

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what pilot projects his Department has undertaken on the use of alternative forms of energy generation for the alleviation of fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [271436]

Joan Ruddock: On 23 April 2009, I announced that the Warm Front grant level for low carbon technologies for off-gas properties has increased from £4,000 to £6,000. This will increase the potential for Warm Front to provide renewable heating systems to some of England's most energy inefficient housing.

New technologies will initially be tested in small-scale pilot programmes, before a decision will be made whether to integrate these as full measures offered through the scheme. Warm Front has already begun piloting solar thermal water heating and air source heat pumps.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what pilot projects run by organisations sponsored by his Department are designed to assess the suitability of alternative forms of energy generation for the alleviation of fuel poverty; which such pilots comprise part of his Department's assessment of the Government's future strategy on fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [271437]

Joan Ruddock: On 23 April 2009, I announced that the Warm Front grant level for low carbon technologies for off-gas properties has increased from £4,000 to £6,000. This will increase the potential for Warm Front, which is administered by a private company, eaga plc, to provide renewable heating systems to some of England's most energy inefficient housing.

New technologies will initially be tested in small-scale pilot programmes, before a decision will be made whether to integrate these as full measures offered through the scheme. Warm Front has already begun piloting solar thermal water heating and air source heat pumps.

The Energy Saving Trust, grant funded by DECC, has been undertaking a number of field trials to assess the in-situ performance of sustainable energy technologies. None of these projects was specifically designed to address fuel poverty objectives although energy saving or lower cost energy supply have the potential to help alleviate fuel poverty.

DECC is currently undertaking a review of its fuel poverty policies, which will take into account the findings of any relevant pilot projects. Until the review has delivered its findings it would be inappropriate to consider whether to revise the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* age, *(b)* construction type and *(c)* Standard Assessment Procedure ratings are of each domestic dwelling included in pilot schemes on the suitability of air source heat pumps for the alleviation of fuel poverty wholly or partly funded by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [271444]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front Scheme, which is aimed specifically at the fuel poor, has begun a piloting exercise for 200 Air Source Heat Pumps, to evaluate whether this technology should be brought in as a main measure offered through the scheme. Installation of the pumps is due to begin over the summer. DECC has not yet defined the property type which will be used on the pilot, although it is likely that the properties will all be off the gas grid.

The Energy Savings Trust will be incorporating a portion of these fuel poor properties into its own trial sample, for which it has provided Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) ratings for 35 non-Warm Front properties out of an intended 80, though it is not known how many of these are fuel poor.

SAP ratings range from 12 (G rating) to 77 (C rating) for the 35 properties for which data are available. There is a range of house types including detached bungalows, mid terraces and large detached houses. Six of the houses were built before 1900 and so have solid walls, although most of these also had extensions built more recently.

Insulation: Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many cavity walls *(a)* were planned to be insulated under the original illustrative mix of measures outlined under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target and *(b)* are expected to be insulated following the changes arising from his Department's proposals announced on 12 February 2009. [270561]

Joan Ruddock: The illustrative mix (a scenario produced for impact assessment purposes) published alongside the CERT Order, demonstrated that 2.9 million cavities could be insulated by 2011. This has now been revised to a central case (i.e. a mid-range estimate of what suppliers might achieve) of 2.5 million. This is an illustration of what is achievable under CERT, to demonstrate its cost-effectiveness, and is not a plan of measures to be installed, nor an expectation of what suppliers will do. It is based on a variety of factors including our understanding of the energy supply chain. It is at energy suppliers' discretion which of the eligible measures they promote, with levels of consumer demand a key factor in determining the number of measures installed.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will introduce a mechanism to reduce the cost of work undertaken under the Warm Front scheme. [249844]

Joan Ruddock: DECC is currently in negotiations with the Warm Front Scheme Manager, Eaga plc, about improvements that can be made to the current contract to deliver the scheme. A number of changes have now been agreed to the service procurement and delivery arrangements, including opening up the scheme to greater competition through liberalisation of both the equipment and installation supply chains, leading to improved value for money.

Further details of these new arrangements will be announced in due course.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many pensioners have received a Warm Front grant in each year since the introduction of the scheme. [270152]

Joan Ruddock: The table indicates the number of householders over 60 who have received assistance from the Warm Front Scheme since the scheme's inception in June 2000, although figures for 2000-05 show an incomplete total.

	Number of Warm Front grants to applicants 60 or over
2000-01[1]	45,764
2001-02[1]	119,145
2002-03[1]	75,493
2003-04[1]	75,805
2004-05[1]	89,209
2005-06	93,990
2006-07	148,175
2007-08	160,978
2008-09	132,964

[1] Figures for 2000-01 to 2004-05 are solely for the geographic areas of the scheme managed by Eaga. Data on the areas managed by Powergen during this period are not available.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what files are held by his Department on *(a)* the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 and *(b)* the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Bill of Session 1999-2000; and if he will make a statement. [273839]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 557W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars, *(c)* consultation documents and *(d)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [274050]

Joan Ruddock: There have been no statutory instruments, department circulars or consultation documents issued on the provision of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000.

As required by the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, the Secretary of State publishes an annual progress report to give an update on progress against the targets set under the Act.

Except in relation to the annual report, there has been no decision made on the issue of any future documents. DECC is currently undertaking a review of its fuel poverty policies. Initial findings of this review are expected in the summer of 2009. It is too early to say whether there will be a consultation in the next 12 months as a result of this process.

WALES

EC Grants and Loans

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what above-Barnett formula additions to the Block Grant for Wales for the EU share of funding for Objective 1 and convergence programmes respectively there were in each year since 1999-2000. [276974]

Mr. Paul Murphy: EU funding is allocated in spending rounds, the most recent three running from 1994 to 2000, from 2001 to 2006 and from 2007 to 2013.

For the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 financial years, EU funding was provided within the Barnett formula as these years fell within the previous spending round.

For the 2001-06 round, where the UK bid for and secured a substantially bigger allocation from Europe, Wales benefited from allocations under a number of European Structural Funds, including Objective 1 which itself covered around 65 per cent. of the population of Wales, in the Valleys, West Wales, and large parts of North Wales.

There was already a baseline in existing Welsh provision, but on top of this, as recorded in the Wales Office Annual Reports submitted to the House, as well as the Main Estimates, the following total amounts of budget cover were made available to the Welsh Assembly, above the overall Block Grant, as receipts from the EU:

	£ million
2001-02	173
2002-03	170
2003-04	186
2004-05	236
2005-06	234
2006-07	336

For the current round, beginning in 2007, the budgeting rules changed so that Department's may use EU receipts to offset expenditure.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what proportion of office supplies purchased by the Government Equalities Office were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275334]

Maria Eagle: No precise figures are available but the Government Equalities Office selects genuinely green supplies wherever possible. All copier paper, for example, is from recycled sources and all toner cartridges are recycled. GEO contracts with a supplier that has won a number of environmental awards, works to the international standard for environmental management and clearly identifies "environmentally preferred" products in its catalogue.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of 28 November 2008 and 3 February 2009 on his constituent, Ms Jackie Pemberton. [273078]

Maria Eagle: I have written to the hon. Member.

Pensioners: Poverty

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on levels of poverty amongst women pensioners. [275279]

Maria Eagle *[holding answer 14 May 2009]*: My colleagues and I have not had recent discussions with the Secretary of State on this subject.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 839, on Afghanistan, what the remit of the internal evaluation unit is; when that unit was established; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each report produced by that unit. [276735]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Evaluation Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was established in 2006. It is an internal unit conducting independent evaluations of UNDP's global, regional and country programmes, aimed at improving and accounting for programme results.

The UNDP Evaluation Office recently conducted an evaluation of the UNDP Afghanistan country programme. It will be published on the UNDP Executive Board website

http://www.undp.org/execbrd/

in June 2009.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of each evaluation report commissioned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its bilateral donor partners on projects in Afghanistan undertaken by the UN Development Programme to which his Department has contributed funds in the last three years. [276702]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: All evaluation reports commissioned by the Department for International Development (DFID) are published and a copy is placed in the House of Commons Library at the time of publication.

Evaluations published by bilateral donor partners on projects in Afghanistan undertaken by the UN Development Programme normally appear on the website of the relevant organisation.

Developing Countries: Private Sector

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which businesses expressed an interest in involvement in the Business Call to Action; which expressions of interest his Department did not proceed with; what the reasons for not proceeding were in each case; and if he will make a statement. [276700]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A total of 66 companies have signed up to the Business Call to Action (BCtA) since July 2007. A regularly updated list of signatory companies can be found at:

www.business-call-to-action.com

The Department for International Development (DFID) is unable to disclose the specific reasons for not proceeding in cases on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

International Assistance: Standards

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent assessment is of the effectiveness of measures to ensure transparency in respect of the provision of international aid. [275028]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The OECD Development Assistance Committee produces statistics about past aid flows. However, research shows developing country governments and citizens face challenges in finding out how much aid their country receives. The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) which was launched in September 2008. It brings together donors, developing country governments and Non-Governmental Organisations to agree common information standards so they can share more and better information about aid. Agreement on essential elements of the standards is expected by the end of 2009. Further information on IATI is available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

North Africa: Overseas Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department provided for *(a)* Morocco, *(b)* Algeria, *(c)* Tunisia, *(d)* Libya, *(e)* Egypt and *(f)* Mauritania in 2008-09. [277377]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) 2008-09 expenditure are not yet available but will be published in our 2009 Annual Report in July. The most recently available data can be found in Statistics on International Development 2008, which was published in November 2008 see:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/sid2008/contents.asp

Pakistan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in *(a)* the Swat Valley and *(b)* north west Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [277484]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Access to the Swat Valley is severely constrained for relief agencies; however, information from partners, including the United Nations, suggests that the humanitarian situation in the Swat Valley is very poor. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) states that the region's principal hospital in Mingora has been cut off from water and electricity supply systems. Across the Swat Valley, frequent curfews make it difficult for people to reach basic services.

Outside conflict areas there are 26 camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North West Frontier Province (NWFP), hosting approximately 275,000 people. The humanitarian situation in these camps is stable. Outside the camps and across Pakistan there are estimated to be just over 2 million registered IDPs living with friends or family or in private rented accommodation.

Pakistan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate his Department has made of the number of individuals currently displaced in north west Pakistan; and in which locations displaced persons have assembled. [277455]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations has estimated that, as of 25 May 2009, approximately 2.38 million people have been registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the conflict affected areas of North West Frontier Province and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. Of these, approximately 275,000 are being accommodated in 26 IDP camps in Charsadda, Lower Dir, Malakand, Mardan, Nowshera, Peshawar and Swabi. The rest are staying with friends or family or are renting private accommodation across Pakistan.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State (1) for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the ability of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* international agencies and *(c)* non-governmental organisations to provide aid to refugees in north west Pakistan in the current security situation; [277454]

(2) what humanitarian assistance his Department is providing to civilians in *(a)* the Swat Valley and *(b)* north west Pakistan. [277456]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Where internally displaced people (IDPs) have moved away from the areas where military action is ongoing, humanitarian aid agencies, including the United Nations (UN), the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC), and non-governmental organisations, are providing humanitarian aid. This includes those residing in 26 IDP camps and those registered IDPs who are staying with family or friends or are in rented accommodation.

However, insecurity continues to limit the ability of relief agencies to assess the needs and deliver aid to those who are cut off by the ongoing fighting. Mingora, the principal town of the Swat Valley, remains inaccessible. In other parts of Swat, Buner, Malakand and Lower Dir districts where military operations continue, agencies have been able to deliver only limited assistance.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £22 million provide relief to those displaced by conflict in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and North West Frontier Province (NWFP), including from the Swat District of NWFP.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what steps the Government has taken to seek to ensure that the Israeli government does not prevent food from entering Gaza; [276527]

(2) if he will make representations to the Israeli government to allow humanitarian supplies into Gaza; [276528]

(3) what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on restrictions on the supply of humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza. [276529]

Mr. Michael Foster: The humanitarian situation in Gaza is of serious concern. The UK Government have consistently lobbied for unrestricted access for food and other humanitarian supplies into Gaza.

During his visit to Gaza in March, the Secretary of State met with Isaac Herzog, the Israeli Minister responsible for co-ordinating aid to Gaza, and pressed for improved access and a relaxation of restrictions on the type of goods allowed across the border. The Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and officials from both the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have also had meetings with the Israeli government on the need to reduce the constraints on goods entering Gaza.

Sri Lanka: EU External Trade

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on withdrawing Generalised System of Preferences GSP+ benefits from Sri Lanka. [276126]

Mr. Michael Foster: Along with other member states the United Kingdom continues to support the EU Commission's decision to initiate an investigation into Sri Lanka's effective implementation of the GSP+ conventions. We continue to press the Commission for a speedy conclusion.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to the Mercy Mission to Vanni. [276054]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

We are aware of reports of a humanitarian relief convoy seeking to take humanitarian supplies to northern Sri Lanka by ship, organised by the British Tamil community and supported by many MPs. It is a clear demonstration of the public's concern for the civilians in Sri Lanka. The organisers must ensure that the appropriate approvals from the relevant UK and Sri Lankan authorities are in place. We have consistently advised those who wish to provide assistance to channel their efforts through aid agencies already on the ground.

On 17 May 2009, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a further £5 million of humanitarian assistance for the civilians affected by the conflict in Sri Lanka. This takes the total to £12.5 million since October 2008.

United Nations: Females

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to support the establishment of a new UN agency for women in his Department's forthcoming White Paper. [277351]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government's policy is to support the establishment of a new UN agency for women. We are pushing for a fast and successful conclusion to the negotiations for its creation.

The UK's forthcoming White Paper on International Development will cover the Government's plan for working with UN agencies.

JUSTICE

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many paper cases are awaiting decision by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. [276562]

Bridget Prentice: At 18 May 2009, there were 31,441 paper cases with the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) awaiting consideration by an immigration judge. These are out of country cases arising from entry clearance officer (ECO), family visit visa (FVV) and managed migration (MM) applications. Of the 31,441 cases, 9,021 are waiting the receipt of the documents from UKBA (the bundle) and, therefore, cannot be progressed any further. 10,233 cases have received notification of hearing and are, therefore, moving through the system. This leaves 12,187 out of country cases still waiting to be listed for hearing. AIT have a clear plan in place to progress these cases through the system.

Courts: Canterbury

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases have been awaiting trial in Canterbury Crown Court for *(a)* more than six months and *(b)* more than 12 months; [277338]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the length of time taken to bring cases to trial in *(a)* crown courts and *(b)* Canterbury Crown Court. [277339]

Maria Eagle: The number of cases awaiting trial in Canterbury Crown court as at 30 April 2009 were:

(a) 66 more than six and less than 12 months; and

(b) 18 more than 12 months; out of a total of 349 outstanding trial cases.

Canterbury Crown court have introduced a number of initiatives to reduce the length of time a case can take to come to trial but there are other factors which influence the speed at which cases commence such as preparedness of the prosecuting agency or defence, and the availability of witnesses.

Last year, HMCS timeliness improved significantly from 77.6 per cent. of cases dealt with within target in 2007-08 to 79.7 per cent. of cases dealt with within target in 2008-09. Nationally HMCS are committed to further improving Crown court timeliness and are working closely with the senior judiciary to improve case management, improve timeliness and reduce the number of hearings. There have already been local and national improvements. Additionally more sitting days have been allocated for 2009-10 than in previous years.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether food and drink on sale to staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies at official premises is subsidised from public funds. [276429]

Mr. Straw: Food and drink is on sale within the Ministry for Justice HQ estate. The subsidised provision of food and drink to the Ministry of Justice HQ Estate for financial year 2008-09 was set at £200,000. Although this provision has ceased since the start of the new financial year 2009-10 and the contract will operate as nil subsidy thereafter.

Her Majesty's Courts Service has food and drink on sale for staff. Their contracts are run on a commercial basis, with a subsidy built in to cover contractor overheads and salaries.

Her Majesty's Prison Service and National Offender Management Service (custodial and non-custodial) have canteen facilities provided through centrally let contracts which are not subsidised. Records of canteen facilities provided for staff in prisons are not held centrally and to find these details would involve contacting each prison location, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Tribunals Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform have subsidised provision via DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) and Home Office contracts respectively.

Departmental Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 379-80W, on official cars, how many of the cars *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies are over six years old. [276775]

Mr. Hanson: The following table outlines the number of owned and leased cars used by the Ministry of Justice that are over six years old, by engine capacity.

	Cars		
	1000 to 1400cc	*1401 to 1700cc*	*1701 to 2200cc*
Vehicles owned			
National Offender Management Service	2	2	83
Ministry of Justice	14	2	12
Vehicles leased			
National Offender Management Service	0	0	0
Ministry of Justice	0	0	2

Life expectancy for owned cars, particularly in the Prison Service, can be extended beyond average fleet age if recorded mileages are low and the condition of the vehicle has been maintained. The decision to retain any vehicle will be taken after a review of whole-life costs and operational requirements.

Modern diesel powered vehicles with extended service intervals are capable of recording high mileages, reliably and cost effectively. Consideration of the environmental impact from emissions associated with these older vehicles will also be taken into account.

Departmental Sick Leave

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies took long-term sick leave in each year since 1997; [272023]

(2) how many days sick leave *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average employees of (i) his Department and its predecessor and (ii) its agencies took in each year since 1997. [272024]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) was created on 9 May 2007. The MOJ—and its predecessors, the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Department for Constitutional Affairs—does centrally monitor long term sickness absence but does so by the number of days' absence taken, not by the number of individual staff on long-term sick leave. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Information relating to the total and average sick leave for the MOJ and its predecessors, the Department for Constitutional Affairs and Her Majesty's Prison Service, is shown in the tables. Approximately 1,530 staff transferred from the Home Office to the MOJ on 1 November 2008. However, it would be possible to obtain sick absence figures from the Home Office for these staff only at disproportionate cost. Absence figures for the 51,239 Prison Service staff migrated into MOJ are shown as follows.

Figures for the Lord Chancellor's Department (prior to 2003-04) and Her Majesty's Prison Service (prior to 1999-2000) are not readily available and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Department for Constitutional Affairs sickness absence rates

	Working days lost	*Average staff in post*	*Working days lost per person*
2003-04	128,170	12,154	10.5
2004-05	124,390	12,643	9.8
2005-06	174,096	16,702	10.4
2006-07	276,166	25,395	10.9

Prison Service sickness absence rates

	Working days lost	*Average staff in post*	*Working days lost per person*
1999-2000	542,922	43,111	12.6
2000-01	592,173	43,878	13.5
2001-02	614,150	44,155	13.9
2002-03	668,337	45,419	14.7
2003-04	328,623	47,224	13.3
2004-05	616,367	48,607	12.7
2005-06	578,211	48,419	12.2
2006-07	573,071	49,216	11.6

Ministry of Justice sick absence rates

The figure includes MOJ Headquarters, Her Majesty's Court Service, the Office of the Public Guardian, the Tribunals Service and Scotland and Wales Offices.

	Working days lost	*Average staff in post*	*Working days lost per person*
2007-08[1]	211,807	25,722	8.2
2008-09[2]	184,027	24,099	7.6

[1] Includes all MOJ employees on Home Office systems (MOJ and NOMS HQ)

[2] Statistics still to be validated and includes staff that migrated across from HO systems

Source:

MOJ Cabinet Office return minus Land Registry and NOMS Agency

NOMS agency sick absence rates

	Working days lost	*Average staff in post*	*Working days lost per person*
2007-08[1]	68,590	58,540	11.6
2008-09[2]	542,821	50,135	10.8

[1] Excludes staff on Home Office systems

[2] Statistic still to be validated and includes staff that migrated across from HO systems

Source:

NOMS Agency Cabinet Office return

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275341]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) does not record specific information on recycled products although those from sustainable sources are highlighted in our catalogue of office supplies. The catalogue is made available to all parts of the Department and staff are encouraged to order products from sustainable sources.

MOJ Procurement currently have 1,273 core products on catalogue of which, 18 per cent. are sustainable. This 18 per cent., however, equates to 26 per cent. of the contract value.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of each category of fixed penalty notices were *(a)* issued and *(b)* paid in each police force area in each month since their introduction. [274149]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the outcomes (endorsable and non-endorsable) of fixed penalty notices for motoring offences from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are provided in tables 1 to 4 placed in the House Library.

Available annual information on motoring fixed penalty notices for previous years can be found in the Home Office Statistical publication 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables', tables 20(a) to 20(c). Copies of the publication are available in the Libraries of the House.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice on the number of penalty notices for disorder (PND) issued, paid, unpaid and registered as fines by persons aged 16 and over by offence and police force area in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in tables 5 to 8 placed in the House Library. The PND scheme was implemented in all 43 forces in 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Ford Prison

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps have been taken by his Department following the recent report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons on HM Prison Ford. [276230]

Mr. Straw: As with all HMCIP reports an action plan responding to each of the recommendations in the report will be submitted to Ministers and the chief inspector within the next three months.

The new governor is focusing on resettlement and security, including measures to reduce the smuggling of alcohol, and the Director of Offender Management (DOM) has approved a schedule of maintenance designed to address the decor and physical environment with plans for a new kitchen. Significant improvements have already been made to improve disability access.

Penalty Notices: Shoplifting

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 22W, on penalty notices: shoplifting, what the outcome was of the study of criminal histories and re-offending rates of penalty notice for disorder recipients for shop theft; [276474]

(2) what his latest assessment is of the effectiveness of the penalty notice for disorder scheme for shop theft. [276475]

Mr. Straw: A study of criminal histories and reoffending rates of PND recipients is under way and we aim to publish the findings in late 2009. Provisional, unpublished results from this study show that of a sample of 13,800 juvenile and adult offenders given a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for theft during 2005, 33 per cent. reoffended within 12 months of receiving the PND. This study used data recorded on the police national computer and counted as a "reoffence" any offence committed during the 12-month period that resulted in a conviction or caution.

This estimate cannot be directly compared to the published reoffending rates for three reasons:

it includes offences leading to a caution as well as a conviction whilst the published National Statistics on adult reoffending counts only convictions;

it covers offenders who in general have very different offending backgrounds to those in the published cohorts; which cover offenders discharged from prison and offenders commencing a court order under probation supervision;

it covers both juvenile and adult offenders together, whereas reoffending data is published separately for adults and juveniles.

We are currently reviewing the use of PNDs for retail theft and will inform the House of our conclusions shortly.

Prison Accommodation

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison places have been created in England and Wales in each year since 1990. [271679]

Mr. Hanson: The table provides approximate information on the number of new prison places provided in England and Wales in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2008-09. In addition to the new places provided in the table, approximately 4,000 places have been provided by other means such as cell reclaims or doubling up.

Approximately 14,000 new prison places were provided between 1990-91 and 1996-97.

Financial year	*New prison places provided*[1]
1997-98	4,900
1998-99	1,200
1999-2000	1,600
2000-01	600
2001-02	900
2002-03	1,800
2003-04	1,300
2004-05	2,600
2005-06	1,100
2006-07	300
2007-08	2,300
2008-09	2,100

[1] To nearest 100

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which *(a)* active and *(b)* inactive military sites (i) he and (ii) representatives of his Department have (A) visited and (B) inspected in order to assess their suitability for use as prisons since 2005; and if he will publish a report of the findings of each visit or inspection; [276753]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the conversion of RAF Coltishall into a category C prison, excluding the cost of the original acquisition of the land and site; what area the site covers; and how many places the prison is planned to provide. [276754]

Mr. Straw: In 2006, the Ministry of Defence provided a list of sites that were under disposal or planned for disposal shortly. Officials in the National Offender Management Service then undertook desktop exercises to refine the lists, and a number of sites were visited and assessed in further detail. A proposal to convert Connaught Barracks in Dover to a prison was considered, but it was decided not to proceed.

Following December 2007 Lord Carter's report, "Securing the future: Proposals for the efficient and sustainable use of custody in England and Wales", Ministers agreed to the acquisition of the former RAF Coltishall site in Norfolk and conversion to a prison.

The prison development at the former RAF Coltishall occupies around 31 acres of the 650 acre site and, once complete, will provide 523 places. The cost is estimated at around £68 million.

Prison Sentences

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time in custody served by offenders sentenced to two months' imprisonment was in the latest year for which figures are available. [277280]

Mr. Hanson: The average time served in days, including time on remand, for all prisoners sentenced to two months and discharged in 2007 was 46 days.

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Service: Political Activities

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the political affiliation of *(a)* senior members of staff and *(b)* governors in HM Prison Service. [272371]

Mr. Straw: MOJ does not collect information about the political affiliation of members of staff. Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the "Civil Service Code" which requires them to act with integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality, including political impartiality. The rules on civil servants' involvement in political activities are set out in the "Civil Service Management Code".

Prisons

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which unit in his Department is responsible for policy on identifying potential sites for new prisons. [276320]

Mr. Straw: The Directorate of Estate Capacity within the National Offender Management Service is responsible for policy on identifying potential sites for new prisons.

Prisons: Barking and Dagenham

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the administrative costs to his Department of assessing contractors' applications to operate a prison at Beam Park West. [276318]

Mr. Straw: The administrative costs to manage the whole procurement process for Beam Park West are included in the overall budget estimate for the new prisons but have not been broken out specifically into the evaluation element as this is dependent on the procurement route used. More detail will be available on this once the procurement strategy has been published in the summer.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vehicles he estimates will require access to and egress from Beam Park West site during the construction of a prison there. [276319]

Mr. Straw: No assessment has yet been made. However, as required by the local planning authority, an environmental impact assessment will be undertaken and submitted as part of the planning application.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the statement of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-71, on prisons and probation (1) how many visits members of his Department have made to the Beam Park West site in connection with the construction of a prison; and when the first such visit took place; [276406]

(2) when a list of possible locations for a new prison was first drawn up by his Department; how many options considered were in Essex; and on what date the Beam Park West site was added to the list. [276407]

Mr. Straw: As part of the Capacity Programme, a number of site searches have been carried out to meet a range of requirements.

Following the publication of Lord Carter's report 'Securing the future: Proposals for the efficient and sustainable use of custody in England and Wales' in December 2007, a list of potential sites for 2,500 place "Titan" prisons was drawn up. This included 12 sites in Essex, but not Beam Park West.

The Beam Park West site was identified during an exercise to identify potential sites for a prison in London. This was undertaken jointly with the London Development Agency in autumn 2008.

As announced on 27 April, instead of building three 2,500 place prisons, we will now build five 1,500 place prisons. The Beam Park West site is one of two sites announced on 27 April for these new prisons.

Following the identification of the Beam Park West site as potentially suitable for prison development, National Offender Management Service officials have visited the site on two occasions, 20 January and 5 February this year.

Prisons: Construction

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) for what reasons the greenfield site at Scarisbrick was under consideration as a potential location for a titan prison; for what reasons he decided not to build a prison on that site; if he will make it his policy to inform local residents when sites are being considered as potential locations for prison developments; and if he will make a statement; [276411]

(2) what his Department's procedures are for informing local residents when sites in their locality are being considered as potential locations for new prisons; what steps his Department takes to consult local communities on its plans for the location of new prisons; and if he will make a statement. [276412]

Mr. Straw: As I announced on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 569-80, we will not be proceeding with the 2,500 place Titan prisons, but we will be building 1,500 place prisons instead.

The site at Scarisbrick was one of a number of sites brought to the attention of the National Offender Management Service as part of the site search exercise for Titan prisons to hold 2,500 prisoners. It was assessed, but not considered suitable for development as a Titan. There are, therefore, no plans for a prison at Scarisbrick.

For any new prison, before the submission of planning application for the site of a new prison, officials hold a public exhibition setting out the proposals.

Prisons: Explosives

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* suspected and *(b)* viable explosive devices or components have been found in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last 12 years for which figures are available. [275142]

Mr. Straw: The following tables show a breakdown of *(a)* suspected and *(b)* viable explosive devices or components found in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last 12 years up to the end of March 2009.

Of these incidents 76 per cent. were suspected devices. This category covers false alarms including such incidents as unattended bags or suspicious packages sent via the postal system, or bomb hoax calls.

Viable explosive devices mainly relate to prisoners making small incendiary devices by packing readily available flammable material such as match heads into an improvised container (17 per cent. of incidents in table); 6 per cent. of incidents relate to unexploded wartime ordnance discovered during excavation work; and, 1 per cent. relates to fireworks being found in the grounds of establishments.

There were no serious injuries as a result of any of these incidents and minor injuries were recorded in just three cases. Apart from unexploded wartime ordnance finds, none of the viable devices discovered were likely to have had the capability to cause life threatening injuries and none involved the use of sophisticated improvised explosives or commercial or military explosives.

Bomb related incidents from 1997-98 to 2008-09

1997-98

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Ashwell	—	1
Bedford	1	—
Birmingham	3	—
Bristol	1	—
Brixton	1	—
Cardiff	2	1
Doncaster	1	—
Frankland	1	—
Garth	1	—
Glenn Parva	1	—
Highdown	1	—
Holloway	1	—
Hull	1	—
Lewes	1	—
Manchester	2	—
Moorland	1	—
Pentonville	1	—
Reading	1	—
Shrewsbury	1	—
Stoke Heath	1	—
The Verne	1	—
Wakefield	1	—
Weare	1	—
Wellingborough	1	—
Whitemoor	1	—
Total	28	2

1998-99

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Altcourse	1	—
Birmingham	1	—
Brinsford	1	—
Brixton	1	—
Feltham	1	—
Feltham	1	—
Glen Par[illegible]	—	1
Highdown	2	2
Leicester	—	1
Lindholme	1	—
Liverpool	—	1
Long Lartin	1	—
Low Newton	1	—
Nottingham	1	—
Sudbury	1	—
Whitemoor	2	—
Winchester	1	—
Wormwood scrubs	—	1
Total	16	6

1999-2000

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Belmarsh	2	—
Bristol	1	—
Brockhill	1	—
Bullingdon	1	—
Canterbury	1	—
Chelmsford	1	—
Feltham	1	—
Ford	—	2
Full Sutton	—	1
Garth	—	1
Highdown	1	—
Hindley	1	—

1999-2000

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Holloway	3	—
Holme House	1	—
Huntercombe	1	—
Lincoln	—	2
Littlehey	1	—
Maidstone	1	—
Manchester	5	2
Northallerton	2	2
Onley	1	—
Parc	2	—
Parkhurst	1	—
Standford	—	2
Swaleside	1	—
Whitemoor	1	—
Woodhill	1	—
Total	31	12

2000-01

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Blakenhurst	1	1
Brixton	1	—
Camp Hill	1	—
Channings Wood	—	1
Chelmsford	1	—
Doncaster	1	—
Downview	1	—
Durham	1	—
Forrest Bank	1	—
Full Sutton	1	1
Garth	2	—
Haverigg	1	—
Highpoint	1	—
Hindley	1	—
Lincoln	1	—
Long Lartin	1	—
Maidstone	1	—
Manchester	1	—
North Sea Camp	—	1
Parc	—	1
Rochester	—	1
Send	1	—
Swinfen Hall	1	—
Verne	—	2
Wakefield	1	—
Wolds	—	1
Woodhill	2	—
Wormwood Scrubs	1	—
Total	24	9

2001-02

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Bedford	1	—
Brockhill	2	—
Bullingdon	1	—
Canterbury	1	—
Cardiff	1	—
Durham	1	—
Eastwood Park	1	—
Elmley	1	—
Gloucester	2	—
Haverigg	1	—
Highpoint	1	—
Holloway	1	—
Leeds	1	—
Manchester	—	1
Moorland	2	—
Northallerton	1	—
Parc	1	—
Preston	1	—
Shepton Mallet	1	—
Shrewsbury	1	—
Swansea	—	1
Woodhill	1	—
Wormwood Scrubs	3	1
Total	26	3

2002-03

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Ashwell	—	3
Birmingham	1	—
Doncaster	1	—
Eastwood Park	1	—
Featherstone	1	—
Glen Parva	3	—
Hatfield (Moorland Open)	1	—
Highpoint	1	—
Holme House	1	—
Leeds	1	—
Leicester	1	1
Lewes	1	—
Lincoln	1	—
Lindholme	1	—
Northallerton	1	—
Parc	1	—
Preston	1	—
Send	1	—
Standford Hill	—	2
Wayland	1	—
Wolds	—	2
Woodhill	1	—
Wormwood Scrubs	—	1
Total	21	9

2003-04

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Ashwell	—	1
Birmingham	1	—
Bristol	1	—
Dartmoor	1	—
Dover	1	—
Downview	1	—
Hatfield (Moorland Open)	1	—
Lancaster	—	3
Leicester	1	—
Lewes	1	—
Lincoln	1	—
Lindholme	—	2
Manchester	1	1
Stafford	1	1
Wakefield	1	—

2003-04

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Wandsworth	1	—
Winchester	1	—
Wormwood Scrubs	2	—
Total	16	8

2004-05

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Belmarsh	1	—
Blundeston	—	1
Bristol	1	—
Bullingdon	1	—
Bullwood Hall	1	—
Eastwood Park	1	—
Feltham	1	—
Guys Marsh	1	—
Holloway	1	—
Hull	1	—
Leeds	—	—
Leicester	1	—
Lincoln	1	—
Lindholme	—	1
Lowdham Grange	1	—
Manchester	—	1
North Sea Camp	—	1
Norwich	1	—
Parc	3	1
Pentonville	1	—
Portland	1	—
Wayland	1	—
Wolds	—	1
Total	19	6

2005-06

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Aylesbury	1	—
Belmarsh	2	—
Bristol	2	—
Bullingdon	—	1
Elmley	—	1
Full Sutton	—	1
Hindley	1	—
Hollesley Bay	1	—
Holme House	1	—
Hull	1	—
Manchester	2	2
Moorland	1	—
Warren Hill	1	—
Whitemoor	—	1
Total	13	6

2006-07

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Albany	1	—
Aylesbury	1	—
Bristol	1	—
Canterbury	1	—
Castington	1	—
Elmley	—	2
Garth	—	2
Glen Parva	2	—
Haverigg	—	2
Highpoint	1	—
Hull	1	—
Lindholme	1	—
New Hall	2	—
Peterborough	2	—
Send	1	—
Standford Hill	—	1
Stoke Heath	—	2
Swinfen Hall	1	—
Thorn Cross	1	—
Wakefield	1	—
Wormwood Scrubs	1	—
Total	19	9

2007-08

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Belmarsh	1	—
Canterbury	1	—
Edmunds hill	1	—
Feltham	1	—
Frankland	2	—
Full Sutton	3	—
Gartree	1	—
Leeds	1	—
Lewes	1	—
Long Lartin	1	—
Norwich	—	1
Parc	1	—
Risley	1	—
Rye Hill	1	—
Stoke Heath	—	1
Swaleside	—	1
Swinfen hall	1	—
Thorn cross	1	—
Wakefield	2	—
Whitemoor	—	1
Total	20	4

2008-09

Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Belmarsh	1	—
Bristol	1	—
Brixton	1	—
Chelmsford	1	—
Elmley	—	1
Full Sutton	1	—
Garth	—	1
Haverigg	—	1
Leicester	1	—
Lindholme	1	—
Long Lartin	2	1
Manchester	2	1
Moorland	1	—
Parc	—	1
Pentonville	1	—
Standford Hill	1	—
The Mount	1	—
Wellingborough	1	—
Whitemoor	1	—

	2008-09	
Establishment	*Suspected*	*Viable explosive devices or components*
Woodhill	2	—
Wormwood Scrubs	2	—
Total	21	6

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Probation Boards

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of probation board members are black and minority ethnic; [275383]

(2) what remuneration the *(a)* Chair and *(b)* members of probation board and trusts receive. [275384]

Mr. Hanson: There are 370 board members in the 42 probation boards/trusts in England and Wales, of whom 11.35 per cent. are from a BME background.

The remuneration for probation board/trust chairs is largely dependent on the population band of the area they cover, with probation/trust chairs being paid between £15,400 and £27,500 and committing up to two days a week. Board/trust members are paid an hourly rate of £15.40 with a commitment of up to five days a month.

The following table lists the current salaries of chairs of all probation areas/trusts for England and Wales.

Probation areas	*Salary (£)*
London	27,500
Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, West Yorkshire	22,000
Avon and Somerset, Cheshire, Devon and Cornwall, Essex, Hampshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Sussex and Thames Valley	17,600
Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, County Durham, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Dorset, Dyfed and Powys, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, North Wales, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Warwickshire, West Mercia and Wiltshire	15,400

Sentencing

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of all prison sentences handed down in each year since 1997 were for six months or less. [264717]

Mr. Hanson: The available information is shown in the table.

These figures can also be found on table 2.3 of the 2007 annual sentencing statistics bulletin published by the Ministry of Justice in 2008 and available on:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

Number of persons issued with immediate custody of six months or less, 1997 to 2007

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Immediate custody of six months or less	57,271	63,741	69,262	70,090	68,914	71,961	70,252	68,199	63,856	59,134	57,536
All immediate custody	93,041	100,566	105,323	106,187	106,273	111,607	107,670	106,322	101,236	96,017	95,206
Proportion (of all immediate custody) (percentage)	61.6	63.4	65.8	66.0	64.8	64.5	65.2	64.1	63.1	61.6	60.4

Notes:

1. The statistics given are on a principal offence basis. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
3. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Shoplifting: Convictions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for shoplifting in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [276186]

Maria Eagle: Data held by the Ministry of Justice show that there were 62,565 defendants found guilty at all courts for 'stealing from shops and stalls' (shoplifting) under the Theft Act 1968 sec. 1, in England and Wales 2007.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figure given on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Shoplifting: Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many successful prosecutions were brought for failure to pay fixed penalty notices for shoplifting in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [276609]

Mr. Straw: Non-payment of a penalty notice for disorder (PND) does not of itself result in prosecution for failing to pay. Recipients of PNDs may either pay the penalty or opt for a court hearing, when they may be prosecuted for the original offence. If they do neither, a fine of one and a half times the amount of the penalty is registered against them, this is enforceable in the normal way for fines. Of the 45,146 penalty notices for disorder issued for shop theft in 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, 172 chose to have their case heard by a court and 24,344 fines were registered. Currently it is not possible to provide separate enforcement rates for fines arising from unpaid PNDs.

Shoplifting: Reoffenders

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to issue amended guidelines to reduce reoffending by those convicted of shop theft. [276123]

Mr. Straw: The Government issue operational guidance on the issuing of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) to police forces under section 6 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. This guidance sets out the criteria which should be considered by police officers before issuing PNDs.

Following representations from the hon. Lady and from retail organisations, the guidance covering shoplifting is being strengthened so as to make clear that no offender should receive more than one PND. We hope that a tougher response to shop theft will help reduce reoffending. The new guidance will be issued shortly.

We are also reviewing the use of PNDs for theft and will report our conclusions to the House soon.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of re-offending by young people between the ages of 10 and 17 years in the latest year for which information is available. [277435]

Mr. Hanson: The level of reoffending by young people aged 10 to 17-years-old is at its lowest since records for the frequency of reoffending began in 2000, with the juvenile reoffending rate down by almost a quarter between 2000 and 2007. This success reflects the Government's investment in the youth justice system and the significant reforms we have implemented since 1997. We do not make an estimate of the overall cost to the public purse of young people's reoffending.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Calor Gas: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions the Health and Safety Executive has had with Calor on *(a)* works and *(b)* levels of activity at the Calor Gas Canvey site in the last 12 months. [275632]

Jonathan Shaw: Over the last 12 months HSE has had regular engagement with Calor Gas Ltd's national and site-based managers regarding safety at the Canvey Island site as part of its ongoing intervention strategy for Calor Gas Ltd. The range of topics discussed included Calor Gas's:

- Development of process safety performance indicators;
- Maintenance of plant integrity, in particular plant design and the examination and testing of safety critical plant;
- Management systems for dealing with plant, process and organisational change; and
- Assessment of risks to people in occupied buildings.

HSE has also had a number of detailed discussions with Calor Gas's managers and staff as part of its investigation into the release of liquefied propane gas (LPG) at the site on 27 October 2008, and in relation to the service of, and Calor Gas's subsequent compliance with, a prohibition notice.

Departmental Contracts for Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274441]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions has outsourced the following services in the last five years:

Year outsourced	*Service outsourced*	*Agency*
2009	Contact centre overflow services	Pension, Disability and Carers Service
2009	Contact centre overflow services	Jobcentre Plus

Departmental Data Protection

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what property containing personal information on members of the public has been *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen from his Department in each of the last 10 years. [277674]

Jonathan Shaw: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security.

The Department takes its responsibilities to protect personal data extremely seriously. Where breaches of security involve personal data, the Department will, in appropriate cases, alert individuals and provide them with support and advice, and bring the matter to the attention of the Information Commissioner.

The Department will cover information assurance issues in its annual resource accounts, which also include details of significant incidents involving personal data that have been reported to the Information Commissioner.

Departmental Furniture

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on furniture in 2008-09; and how much its agencies spent on furniture in each of the last five years. [273743]

Jonathan Shaw: Information broken down by agency could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The Department's expenditure is provided in the following table.

Financial year	*Furniture spend (£ million)*
2004-05	4
2005-06	8
2006-07	11
2007-08	5
2008-09	4.3

Departmental Land

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects his Department to make its return for 2008 to the National Land Use Database of Previously Developed Land. [274823]

Jonathan Shaw: I do not anticipate DWP reporting data for 2008 from the National Land Use Database of Previously Developed Land.

DWP does not own any land or property. The Department has outsourced its estate via a private finance initiative (PFI) contract known as PRIME whereby the vast majority of the DWP estate was sold to Land Securities Trillium (now Telereal Trillium).

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274494]

Jonathan Shaw: The total departmental spend on management conferences is shown in the table. The Department does not have banqueting events.

All expenditure is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

	£
2003-04	12,922,099
2004-05	11,432,515
2005-06	11,229,879
2006-07	12,181,384
2007-08	12,030,270

Source:
General ledger.

The figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275244]

Jonathan Shaw: Less than 1 per cent. of the total pay bill is used for non-consolidated performance payments which have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future costs.

All DWP employees in pay bands below the senior civil service (SCS) are eligible for an annual individual non-consolidated performance payment if they attain a qualifying rating under the annual performance and development system. The amount of payment awarded is differentiated on the basis of an employee's pay band and the performance level achieved and is the same across all business units.

For the SCS, end of year non-consolidated performance payments are determined on an individual basis by the relevant DWP SCS pay committee.

Performance awards are payable in July and are attributable to performance in the previous financial year. In the 2008-09 financial year £23.32 million has been paid as follows:

2008-09

Grade	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Total number of recipients*
Below SCS	21.50	107,518
SCS	1.82	208
Departmental total	23.32	107,726

In response to the current economic conditions, the Government have frozen the size of the overall amount available for performance awards payable to SCS in July 2009.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274568]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

(a) Over the past 12 months (April 2008 to March 2009) the DWP spent approximately £10,402,244.00 on recycled office supplies (i.e. paper, cardboard products, box files, toner and ink cartridges).

(b) Over the past five years the DWP spend on printer ink cartridges is estimated to be:

April to March each year	£
2006-07	5,490,768
2007-08	4,806,367
2008-09	4,926,650

Information for the period April 2004 to March 2006 cannot be determined without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 845W, on departmental training, how much has been spent on media training for Ministers in his Department necessary in order to carry out their duties effectively. [272104]

Mr. McNulty: The figures in the table give details of how much had been spent by the Press Office on media training in the last three years. We are unable to break down how much was spent on training for Ministers, senior officials and press officers.

	£
2006-07	17,079.00
2007-08	8,328.00
2008-09	6,202.48
Total	31,609.48

Employment

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Castle Point constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England over 50 years old have returned to work after being made redundant in each of the last five years. [276613]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people resident in *(a)* Castle Point constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England over 50 years old have returned to work after being made redundant in each of the last 5 years. (276613)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS), however redundancy estimates from this source are not available at the level of detail requested.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what back to work support will be offered to new and existing claimants of employment and support allowance who are not part of the progression to work pathfinders. [255129]

Mr. McNulty: Nationally, employment and support allowance claimants will continue to have access to back to work support through the successful Pathways to Work Programme, including a series of six mandatory work focused interviews with a personal adviser in the first eight months of the claim. From late 2010 we will extend to two years the period during which new claimants are required to engage with us through work focused interviews. This will provide a more comprehensive framework of engagement in which to address the claimant's barriers to work. Claimants in the support group will not be required to attend any work focused interviews, but will be able to volunteer for pathways support.

Additionally, we anticipate that approximately 6 per cent. of new employment and support allowance claimants will be included in the personalised employment programme pilots which will test a single, integrated, flexible employment programme for jobseeker's allowance claimants, new employment and support allowance claimants and parents with younger children. They will be required to engage in a framework of work focused interviews and work related activity for two years. This is subject to the successful passage of provisions in the Welfare Reform Bill.

Claimants who are migrated from incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance will be subject to different conditionality requirements, as set out in the response to questions 255137 and 255138.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department expects to save from the introduction of the employment and support allowance in place of incapacity benefit in the first 12 months in which the allowance is available. [273631]

Jonathan Shaw: Employment and support allowance was introduced for new claims in October 2008. It is estimated that by paying employment and support allowance rates to new claimants rather than the relevant incapacity benefit rates, the Department saves £2 million in 2008-09 and spends an extra £33 million in 2009-10. These figures reflect only the changes in rates of benefit and do not take into account the effect of different eligibility criteria in the benefits.

Although starting rates of benefit are very similar for employment and support allowance and incapacity benefit, under employment and support allowance people get more money much sooner. New customers to employment and support allowance will benefit from higher rates after three months. Under incapacity benefit arrangements the highest amounts are not payable until after a year of incapacity.

Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the £40 back to work credit for lone parents was made available on a national basis; and how many lone parents have received the credit since that date. [275894]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* In work credit for lone parents was introduced nationally from 7 April 2008. The total number of lone parents who have taken it up since then, up to the end of March 2009, is 61,610.

Employment: Conferences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 118W, on employment conferences, how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* others attended the employment summit on 12 January 2009. [274882]

Mr. McNulty: Over 120 key figures from business, trade unions, academia, workplace providers and representative bodies attended the Employment summit on 12 January, alongside nine Ministers and approximately 40 civil servants. I refer the hon. Member to a full list of attendees that I placed in the Library in answer to PQ No. 249916 which gives full details of those in attendance.

Source:

DWP Communications Directorate.

Housing Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which local authorities have requested median rents for local housing allowance for accommodation with six or more bedrooms; and what the median rent for such accommodation was in each case; [249338]

(2) in how many broad market rental areas median rents for accommodation with *(a)* six, *(b)* seven, *(c)* eight, *(d)* nine and *(e)* 10 or more bedrooms have been estimated; what those broad market rental areas were; and at what level the median rents for accommodation with six or more bedrooms were in each instance. [249372]

Kitty Ussher: Local Housing Allowance rates for larger properties are only provided if a local authority requests them. Since Local Housing Allowance was launched in April 2008, 156 local authorities have requested a rate for accommodation with six or more bedrooms. The Rent Service has provided Local Housing Allowance rates for properties over six bedrooms in 114 Broad Rental Market Areas. From April 2009, all new claims to LHA are capped at the five bedroom rate.

A full list of monthly Local Housing Allowance rates for properties with five bedrooms or less, together with maps of the Broad Rental Market Areas, are available on the LHA-Direct website at:

lha-direct.therentservice.gov.uk/Secure/Default.aspx

Incapacity Benefit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claims for incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance took *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* between five and 10 days, *(c)* between 10 and 20 days, *(d)* between 20 and 30 days, *(e)* between 30 and 50 days, *(f)* between 50 and 100 days and *(g)* over 100 days to process in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years for which information is available. [266128]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question asking how many and what proportion of claims for Incapacity Benefit and Employment and Support Allowance took (a) fewer than five days, (b) between five and 10 days, (c) between 10 and 20 days, (d) between 20 and 30 days, (e) between 30 and 50 days, (f) between 50 and 100 days and (g) over 100 days to process in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years for which information is available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our benefit processing system records, in terms of volumes and percentages, the number of Incapacity Benefit claims processed within the following time bands—in 10 days, in 40 days and over 40 days. The data provided below regarding the volumes is displayed cumulatively for the first two time band sets—up to 10 days and then up to 40 days. The 40 days and over column shows the remaining claims processed beyond this time period. The percentage figures are not cumulative and are subject to rounding.

This data has been available since 2006. I have provided you with the yearly total for 2006/07 and 2007/08. I have also provided you with the in-month data for the last 12 months.

No information regarding Employment and Support Allowance will be released until the first set of official statistics is published in the Summer.

Annex

Incapacity Benefit claims processing

	Incapacity Benefit processed in			*Percentage*		
Month	*10 days*	*11-40 days*	*40+ days*	*1-10 days*	*11-40 days*	*40 days+*
March 2008	34,440	47,175	2,657	69.1	25.6	5.3
April 2008	39,021	54,989	3,225	67.0	27.4	5.5
May 2008	36,318	51,526	2,990	66.6	27.9	5.5
June 2008	37,455	52,726	3,371	66.8	27.2	6.0
July 2008	40,928	57,758	3,375	66.9	27.5	5.5
August 2008	36,445	52,348	3,865	64.8	28.3	6.9
September 2008	36,685	54,609	3,284	63.4	31.0	5.7
October 2008	40,458	62,862	4,271	60.3	33.4	6.4
November 2008	19,527	40,733	3,464	44.2	48.0	7.8
December 2008	6,865	15,744	3,600	35.5	45.9	18.6
January 2009	4,669	9,014	3,613	37.0	34.4	28.6
February 2009	3,076	5,419	1,699	43.2	32.9	23.9
2006-07	375,489	638,928	54,687	54.1	38.0	7.9
2007-08	434,007	640,999	47,403	63.0	30.[illegible]	6.9

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receiving benefits as a result of a long-term illness had had their case reviewed by Jobcentre Plus or its contractor ATOS by 1 March 2009. [270005]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 22 April 2009]:* Information about the number of people with a long-term illness who have had their benefit entitlement reviewed by Jobcentre Plus is not collated centrally. Jobcentre Plus may ask Atos Healthcare for a reassessment as part of a review, but Atos Healthcare does not itself review cases.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of adults receive a form of incapacity benefit. [272475]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows:

The number and proportion of adult incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in Great Britain: August 2008

Total claimants aged 16 and over	Percentage of population aged 16 and over
2,632,000	5.5

Notes:
1. Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants also include people receiving income support on grounds of incapacity.
2. Caseload is rounded to the nearest 10 and percentage to one decimal place.
3. Adult incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants are those aged 16 and over.
4. Percentages have been calculated based on Office for National Statistics population estimates.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent WPLS

Jobcentre Plus

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many branches of Jobcentre Plus there are in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas. [271231]

Mr. McNulty: We do not separately categorise Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public by urban, semi-rural or rural areas but our public facing network is designed to provide reasonable access to our services throughout Great Britain.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been claimed by former *(a)* heavy goods vehicle drivers, *(b)* van drivers and *(c)* other logistics workers in jobseeker's allowance in each of the last 12 months. [276155]

Mr. McNulty: The Department does not collect expenditure information at the requested level of occupational group so no information on the amount of benefit claimed by heavy goods vehicle drivers, van drivers, and other logistics workers is available.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bristol

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average processing time for jobseeker's allowance claims received from the residents of Bristol was in the last period for which figures are available; [273073]

(2) how many claims for jobseeker's allowance received from persons resident in Bristol West constituency are yet to be processed; [273074]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to reduce processing times for claims received for jobseeker's allowance in Bristol. [274157]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what the average processing time for Jobseeker's Allowance claims received from Bristol was in the last period for which figures are available; how many claims for Jobseeker's Allowance received from persons resident in Bristol West constituency are yet to be processed; what steps the Department is taking to improve processing times for claims received for Jobseeker's Allowance in Bristol. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In Jobcentre Plus we aim to process Jobseeker's Allowance claims within an average of 11.5 working days. Jobseeker's Allowance claims for customers in Bristol are processed at our Bristol Benefit Delivery Centre. The latest figures available for Jobseeker's Allowance claims are for the month of March 2009. These figures show that during March 2009 the Bristol Benefit Delivery Centre processed Jobseeker's Allowance claims on average within 8.9 working days of the claim being made.

Although figures are available for the number of Jobseeker's Allowance claims waiting to be processed, it is not possible to break this figure down into particular constituencies. On 27 April 2009 there were 1,387 new claims to Jobseeker's Allowance to be processed at Bristol Benefit Delivery Centre.

During the operational year 2008/09 we processed all Jobseeker's Allowance claims in Bristol within 10.1 days. This is significant as during the twelve month period from April 2008 to March 2009 our Bristol Benefit Delivery Centre saw the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance rise by 133.5 per cent from 8,550 to 19,960. Despite this increase in our workload we have continued to perform well in processing new claims.

We anticipate that additional resources are required to deal with the increasing number of new claims to Jobseeker's Allowance arising during the economic downturn. We have recently recruited 130 new staff in the West of England district across a range of Jobcentre Plus offices and duties. These people are currently at various stages of the recruitment process; some have been recruited and trained, whilst others are awaiting screening clearance. Another 105 new staff have been recruited on a fixed term basis and are currently awaiting allocation to posts and training.

National Insurance Contributions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the change in the number of people who would accrue contributory years of national insurance contributions as a result of charging employee national insurance contributions on aggregate income from all employments; and if he will make a statement. [269039]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Evidence from the Labour Force Survey 2006-08 shows that there are around 40,000 people who have two jobs each paying below the lower earnings limit but when aggregated their earnings are at least equal to the lower earnings limit. Around half of these people are estimated to already be accruing entitlement to contributory benefits through other interactions with the system and represent less than 0.1 per cent. of all people accruing entitlement to state pension in those years.

These are point-in-time data and people are unlikely to remain in this position for lengthy periods and may well have other opportunities to build up qualifying years during their working lives. Reforms in the Pensions Act 2007, including the reduction in the number of qualifying years to 30 for a basic state pension, mean that from 2010 people reaching state pension age will have far greater opportunity to build up a full basic state pension entitlement.

The aggregation of the earnings of people doing more than one job would add an increased burden for employers to comply with.

Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people in the UK with stranded pensions and *(b)* the monetary value of such pensions; and if he will make a statement. [276724]

Ms Rosie Winterton: *[holding answer 21 May 2009]:* The information is not collected centrally and therefore the numbers requested are not available.

Government have introduced a number of changes to trivial commutation rules in recent years to help people avoid the problem of stranded pension pots. The 2004 Finance Act increased considerably the amount that could be trivially commuted from £2,500 in 2005-06 to £15,000 in 2006-07. This change benefits those with individual funds above the old limit. However, the limit applies to the aggregate value of all funds held by an individual (to ensure trivial commutation is not exploited for tax reasons) and so can still result in an individual with several pension funds facing one or more stranded pots.

Easements to the trivial commutation rules for occupational pensions come into force 1 December 2009. These amend rules so that small occupational pension pots of less than £2,000 can be commuted as a trivial lump sum irrespective of the total value of funds held by the individual. This will help to ease the problem of stranded pensions.

The problem of stranded pensions must be weighed against the need to make sure that pension savings, which attract favourable tax treatment, are ring-fenced to generate income in retirement.

Post Office Card Account

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether holders of a Post Office Card Account will have access to the Link automated teller machine network under the terms of the new contract for that service. [276052]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the terms of the new contract, from April 2010 Post Office card account holders will have access to automated teller machines (ATMs) within the Post Office network located throughout the United Kingdom, but this will not include ATMs operated through the LINK network.

Remploy: Pay

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 621-2W, on Remploy: pay, how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* managers and *(b)* directors and executives working in (i) Employment Business and (ii) Employment Services. [270816]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following tables.

Remploy bonuses

£

	2000-01			2001-02		
Business	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*
Corporate	41,286	22,975	64,261	98,597	48,322	146,919
Employment Services	112,665	—	112,665	104,218	—	104,218
Enterprise Businesses	115,117	11,886	127,003	122,088	6,454	128,542
Total	269,068	34,861	303,929	324,903	54,776	379,679

	2002-03			2003-04		
Business	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*
Corporate	16,799	—	16,799	10,095	—	10,095
Employment Services	153,012	—	153,012	74,712	—	74,712
Enterprise Businesses	89,820	—	89,820	438,809	—	438,809
Total	259,631	0	259,631	523,616	0	523,616

	2004-05			2005-06		
Business	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*
Corporate	16,822	24,035	40,857	274,668	—	274,668
Employment Services	182,432	5,210	187,642	248,664	—	248,664
Enterprise Businesses	204,900	—	204,900	640,135	—	640,135
Total	404,154	29,245	433,399	1,163,467	0	1,163,467

	2006-07			2007-08		
Business	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*
Corporate	304,258	82,000	386,258	301,915	110,600	412,515
Employment Services	458,697	—	458,697	534,218	—	534,218
Enterprise Businesses	393,075	—	393,075	820,368	—	820,368

	2006-07			2007-08		
Business	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*	*Managers*	*Directors*	*Total*
Total	1,156,030	82,000	1,238,030	1,656,501	110,600	1,767,101

Source:
Remploy

Social Security Benefits: Interviews

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Jobcentre Plus plans to employ medical professionals to interview incapacity benefit claimants who would be transferred to the jobseeker's allowance scheme under the proposals of the Welfare Reform Bill. [274424]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* We have announced that we plan to migrate existing recipients of incapacity benefits to employment and support allowance. Recipients will have to undertake a work capability assessment in order to determine their eligibility for employment and support allowance. Health care professionals defined in legislation as:

a registered medical practitioner;

a registered nurse; or

an occupational therapist or physiotherapist registered with a regulatory body established by an Order in Council under section 60 of the Health Act 1999 (and);

are employed by our contractors to undertake these assessments. This measure is not provided for by the Welfare Reform Bill currently before Parliament, but by the Welfare Reform Act 2007.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the effect on single parent households of housing and council tax benefit rules that result in a reduction of benefit when *(a)* eligibility for tax credits is established and *(b)* a student maintenance grant is payable; and if he will make a statement. [275516]

Mr. McNulty: In assessing entitlement to housing benefit and council tax benefit, regard is had to all forms of income. This includes taking into account in full any working tax credit and child tax credit in payment.

Where an additional element of working tax credit is paid in respect of a person working more than 30 hours a week, a disregard of an equal amount is applied to their earnings. In addition, an earnings disregard can be applied to certain groups of people where the claimant or his partner is working for 16 hours or more. This is £25 for single parents.

A deduction equal to the full value of relevant child care charges, or the maximum deduction if lower, can also be made. The maximum weekly deductions are £175 for one child and £300 for two or more children.

Where a single parent student is eligible for a maintenance grant, these grants can be used by the student for any purpose, including daily living expenses. Where a student does not have a student loan and is not treated as having one, a standard amount towards the costs of books and equipment is deducted from the student's annual grant income. From the start of the 2008-09 academic year, this amount is £380 for books and equipment and £295 for travel. Any part of the grant paid for child care is disregarded. Additionally, if a student was to receive grants paid specifically for any non-maintenance elements, such as books and travel costs, these are also completely disregarded.

We are satisfied that the above arrangements are working as intended and currently have no plans to change them. However, as with all aspects of the benefits system, they are subject to regular review.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been received by his Department on medical assessment interviews included in work capability assessments, in relation to *(a)* claimants' experiences of (i) the attitude of the doctor in conducting the interview and (ii) performing tasks at the request of the doctor as part of a physical examination and *(b)* the accuracy of the records made by the doctor of the (A) responses given by claimants during interview and (B) assessment as a whole. [271105]

Jonathan Shaw: Since the start of the employment support allowance up to 23 April, the most recent date for which information is available, the following information is available from work capability assessments:

Claimants' experiences

33 complaints related to the attitude of the doctor conducting the interview; and

27 complaints related to performing tasks at the request of the doctor as part of a physical examination.

Accuracy of the records made by the doctor

62 complaints related to the accuracy of the recording of responses given by claimants during interview; and

27 complaints related to the assessment as a whole.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will estimate the number of pensioners who would no longer be eligible for pension credit if the basic state pension were increased in line with earnings in each of the next five years; [272659]

(2) if he will estimate the number of pensioners who would no longer be classified as being in poverty if the basic state pension were increased in line with earnings in each of the next five years. [272660]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

It is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. Any current projection of the number of pensioners in low income would be subject to uncertainties around future income growth, changes in the income distribution and individual changes in behaviour in response to policy changes.

While the Department does not publish projections on pensioner poverty, use of the static benefit model provides a broad indication of potential change going forward.

Analysis shows no discernible change to the number of pensioners below 60 per cent. of median household income and also no discernible change to those eligible for pension credit if the basic state pension were increased in line with earnings in each of the next five years.

We have committed to restoring the link with earnings in 2012 or by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. Earnings uprating is part of a coherent and affordable set of reforms which are intended to work in the long run as a complementary package which together mean that only around 40 per cent. of pensioner households will be entitled to one or more income related benefits by 2050 compared to around 75 per cent. in 2050 without reform.

Notes:

1. Analysis has been conducted using the Department's Policy Simulation Model.

2. In the financial years up to and including 2014-15 Treasury Economic assumptions consistent with Budget 2009 have been used to model prices and earnings uprating.

3. The model used is a static model. Estimates are therefore not a forecast of expected poverty, but a broad indication of the likely impact on poverty and pension credit caseload brought on purely from changing from price to earnings uprating, all else remaining constant.

STC: Paignton

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that the pensions of former employees of STC/Nortel Networks of Paignton, South Devon are protected by the Pension Protection Fund; and if he will make a statement. [274963]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The eligibility criteria for the Pension Protection Fund are set out in the Pensions Act 2004.

The Nortel Networks UK Pension Plan entered a Pension Protection Fund assessment period in March 2009. During an assessment period, the board of the Pension Protection Fund establishes whether the scheme can be rescued; whether it can afford to secure benefits which are at least equal to the compensation that the Pension Protection Fund would pay; or whether the scheme is eligible for compensation from the Pension Protection Fund.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1209-10W, on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, whether he expects the necessary parliamentary processes required to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be completed by the end of June; and what his latest estimate is of the date by which the Convention will be ratified by the UK. [277346]

Jonathan Shaw: The parliamentary processes are now complete. As I said in my written statement to the House on 13 May 2009, we aim to ratify the convention on 8 June.

Unemployment

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what tailored support his Department provides for unemployed executives; and if he will make a statement. [275512]

Mr. McNulty: As part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, the DWP put in place extra support for newly unemployed customers from the 6 April 2009, including a service for professionals and executives.

Jobseeker's allowance customers who are interested in receiving advice about modern job search techniques and matching their skills to available vacancies will be referred from their first interview to an information session delivered by Jobcentre Plus. Those that need more coaching will be referred to an advice and coaching session delivered by external providers. Newly unemployed professionals who need extra help will be referred from their first interview in the jobcentre to organisations specialising in support for professionals and executives.

There are places for 350,000 newly unemployed customers (the service for people from a professional or executive occupation will support a proportion of this overall number) over the period 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department provides for newly unemployed young people. [273661]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are committed to giving everyone the support they need to find employment as quickly as possible, whatever their age.

On 6 April 2009, as part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, the Department for Work and Pensions put in place extra support for newly unemployed customers. This will be available from the initial interview at Jobcentre Plus, and can be tailored for those who have recently left a professional or executive job. It will include information and advice about the latest job search techniques and coaching on how to make the most of transferable skills, delivered through one hour group information sessions and one on one advice and coaching.

In addition to this, since last autumn the Department has quadrupled the available funding for the Rapid Response Service, which provides advice and support to customers facing redundancy. It has also extended Local Employment Partnerships, the Adviser Discretion Fund and Access to Work so they are available to customers from the first day of their claim, alongside the support they receive from their Jobcentre Plus personal adviser.

This help is available to customers of all ages to ensure that everyone has the best possible chance of finding work.

For young people who are in danger of slipping into long-term unemployment, funding was provided in the Budget for a guaranteed offer of a job, work-focused training, or meaningful activity to all 18 to 24-year-olds before they have reached the 12-month stage of their claim to jobseeker's allowance. We expect this to be available from early 2010, but we are aiming to get an offer in place as soon as possible, with some jobs available as early as October 2009.

Welfare Reform Bill

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been allocated for training for Jobcentre Plus staff to undertake functions accorded to them under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill. [275424]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not readily available because the specific training costs for the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill form only part of our overall Learning and Development programme. The data needed to isolate the Welfare Reform elements could be requested and collated only at disproportionate cost.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Catering

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answers of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1199W, on food: public sector, and of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on 10 Downing Street: catering, whether 10 Downing Street implements the public sector food procurement initiative to provide that genetically-modified food and ingredients may not be used in its catering. [272005]

Kevin Brennan: I have nothing further to add to my earlier answer.

Bowel Cancer

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many cases of bowel cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* resulted in death in the last year for which figures are available. [276484]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cases of bowel cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* resulted in death in the last year for which figures are available. [276484]

Colorectal cancer, another name for bowel cancer, is cancer of the colon and rectum combined. The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of colorectal cancer are for the year 2006. There were *(a)* 30,046 cases diagnosed in England in 2006. It is not possible to provide the number of colorectal cancer deaths that occurred to cases diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

Death registration data provide mortality figures for colorectal cancer. There were *(b)* 12,844 deaths from colorectal cancer in England in 2007, the latest year available.

Breast Cancer: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have been (i) diagnosed with and (ii) successfully treated for breast cancer in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 12 years. [276634]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women have been (i) diagnosed with and (ii) successfully treated for breast cancer in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 12 years. (276634)

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006 for England. There were (i) five newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer in (a) men resident in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency over the twelve year period from 1995 to 2006. Table 1 gives the numbers of (i) newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for (b) women resident in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency for each year from 1995 to 2006.

It cannot be stated definitively whether a patient with breast cancer has been (ii) 'successfully treated'. For most cancers, but not breast, five-year survival rates are often taken to be 'cure' rates.

Survival rates are not available for constituencies. ONS regularly publishes one-and five-year relative survival for patients resident in England, government office regions and strategic health authorities.

Table 2 shows the predicted long-term survival rates for women diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001-03 (the most recent period for which data are available) for the North East government office region that includes Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

Survival rates for men diagnosed with breast cancer are not available. Male breast cancer accounts for less than one per cent of all breast cancer cases.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1] for women: Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency, 1995 to 2006

	Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland
1995	60
1996	56
1997	50
1998	74
1999	59
2000	62
2001	81
2002	79
2003	71
2004	85
2005	57
2006	60

[1] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics.

Table 2: Predicted long-term relative survival[1] from breast cancer[2] for women aged 15-99: North East government office region, 2001 to 2003[3]

Duration of survival (years)	*Relative survival (percentage)*
One year	94.0
Five years	79.8
Ten years	69.2

Table 2: Predicted long-term relative survival[1] from breast cancer[2] for women aged 15-99: North East government office region, 2001 to 2003[3]

Duration of survival (years)	*Relative survival (percentage)*
Fifteen years	65.6

[1] Relative survival takes into account that some cancel patients will die from causes other than their cancer.

[2] Breast cancer is coded to C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

[3] Based on all women diagnosed with breast cancer between 1981 and 2001, who were alive for at least part of the period 2001-03.

Source:

Office for National Statistics, available on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14172

Central Office of Information: Expenditure

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what expenditure the Central Office of Information (COI) has incurred in each Government region on *(a)* newspaper, *(b)* radio, *(c)* television, *(d)* poster and *(e)* internet advertising in each year since 2005; by what method the effectiveness of such advertising is evaluated; and whether the COI holds information on expenditure incurred on advertising by Government departments other than the Cabinet Office. [267039]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information: I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Peter Buchanan, dated 20 April 2009:

As Acting Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on Government regional expenditure (267039).

The total expenditure incurred by COI in each year since 2005 is given in the table below:

Expenditure by fiscal year/medium

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
TV	83.1	65.9	72.9
Press	43.4	39.3	51
Radio	26.2	28.6	34.3
Out-of-home	17.1	20.1	19.1
Cinema	0.5	2.3	4.4
Digital advertising	4.9	7.9	11.6

Note:

All costs are gross media spend.

The manner in which media is planned, sold and bought does not align with Government regions. Indeed the vast majority of media spend is committed at a national level.

There would be a disproportionate cost to break it down by Government region, and it would not be accurate.

In terms of the evaluation of the effectiveness, virtually all advertising placed through COI is fully evaluated using techniques such as recall, tracking, attitudinal shifts and awareness. All response data is fully captured for evaluation purposes.

I can confirm that COI do hold financial information on media expenditure made through us by our clients.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department has spent on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [277066]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Conduct

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many investigations there have been into alleged breaches of the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers" since 27 June 2007. [274178]

Mr. Byrne: Special advisers' duties and responsibilities are set out in the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers". Any investigation into alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct for special advisers is a matter for individual Departments.

Copies of the "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers" are available in the Library of the House and also available at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/special_advisers/code/code.aspx.

Unemployment: Graduates

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of qualified *(a)* law, *(b)* medical and *(c)* engineering graduates in the UK who are unemployed. [276621]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of qualified *(a)* law, *(b)* medical and *(c)* engineering graduates in the UK are unemployed. (276621)

Estimates for the percentage of unemployed people previously employed in professional occupations are published by the Office for National Statistics, derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). However, estimates for the percentage of unemployed graduates qualified in these professions are not available.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what contracts the Olympic Delivery Authority has let for sustainable regular delivery of construction materials by water; and what proportion of deliveries of such materials she expects to be made by *(a)* water, *(b)* rail and *(c)* other modes of transport. [276548]

Tessa Jowell: To date, delivery of construction materials to the Olympic Park site by water has been in the form of pilot operations to determine wharf locations and areas that require dredging. Regular use of the waterways will commence this summer following the opening of Prescott Lock in June which will enable 350-tonne barge access into the site.

The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is firmly committed to sustainability and actively encourages all contractors to use sustainable transportation methods. The ODA Sustainability Development Strategy (2007) states that 50 per cent. of construction materials (by weight) will be transported by sustainable means. There are no specific targets in relation to water or rail transportation.

In May 2008, Aggregate Industries was appointed sole provider of all aggregate materials needed for the construction of the venues and infrastructure to the Olympic Park including sand, gravel, crushed stone and recycled concrete. Aggregate Industries aims to transport 99 per cent. of aggregate materials via sustainable transport methods, surpassing the ODA's target of 50 per cent. The aim is that approximately 74 per cent. of the aggregate materials will be transported by rail and 25 per cent. by water, with only 1 per cent. transported by road for specialist materials which do not have established rail and water links.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when the regular *(a)* delivery of construction materials to and *(b)* removal of materials from the Olympic site by water will begin. [276549]

Tessa Jowell: Regular use of the waterways is expected to commence this summer following the scheduled completion in June of the dredging programme, wharf works near the Aquatics Centre venue, and the opening of Prescott Lock giving site access to barges of 350-tonne load capacity.

The opening of navigable waterways will enable freight barges to carry construction materials in, and waste out, of the park during the construction phase and the Olympic Delivery Authority actively encourages contractors to employ sustainable transport methods at every opportunity. The Olympic stadium contractor, for example, is already arranging regular delivery of construction steelwork to its venue site using this revitalised network of park waterways.

Olympic Games 2012: Cultural Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent on the International Inspiration programme since its inception; and in which countries such expenditure has been incurred. [272041]

Tessa Jowell: The International Inspiration programme is operating in Azerbijan, Brazil, India, Palau, Zambia, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Jordan and Trinidad and Tobago, with scoping visits having taken place to a further three countries.

The total expenditure since the start of the programme in October 2007 has been £7,784,000.

HEALTH

Cancer: Research

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much and what proportion of its funding the National Cancer Research Institute has provided for *(a)* brain tumour, *(b)* leukaemia, *(c)* lung cancer, *(d)* colo-rectal cancer, *(e)* breast cancer, *(f)* prostate cancer and *(g)* other cancer-related research in each of the last five years. [276946]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) is a membership organisation the brings together the major funders of cancer research in government, the voluntary sector and industry along with cancer patient representatives to ensure a national strategic approach to cancer research. The NCRI does not itself fund or manage research.

The NCRI published an analysis of the national cancer research portfolio that includes details of expenditure by its partner organisations on research into individual tumour sites.

The analysis is available online at:

www.ncri.org.uk/includes/Publications/reports/analysisReport08.pdf

A more detailed account of annual aggregated portfolio expenditure is given in an associated data package available at:

www.ncri.org.uk/includes/Publications/reports/Data_package.xls

Chlamydia: Prisoners

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women's prisons offered chlamydia testing for inmates in each of the last five years. [276698]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not have data on the number of female prisons that offered testing for chlamydia via sexual health services in each of the last five years.

Sexual health services in prisons are provided by local national health service acute trusts through commissioning arrangements with the local primary care trust in England or Health Board in Wales.

Such services provide data on tests performed and positive results to the Centre for Infections of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) through KC60 returns (now phased out) or, more recently, through a system of reporting called GUMCAD (genito-urinary medicine clinical activity data). However, prison-specific data are not currently disaggregated; however, the HPA is currently exploring such disaggregation.

Coeliac Disease

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to establish a national register for people diagnosed with coeliac disease as a means of monitoring the management of the condition in the NHS. [276909]

Ann Keen: There are no plans to establish a national register for people diagnosed with coeliac disease.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275201]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of all payments made in respect of interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 for the three years ended 31 March 2009 are as follows.

Department of Health

	£
2006-07	135,000.00
2007-08	0
2008-09	91.28

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

No payments made in the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2009.

NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency

No payments made in the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2009.

Departmental Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on building maintenance in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274559]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its Executive agencies, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has spent the following sums on building maintenance:

	£
2004-05	711,692
2005-06	915,980
2006-07	830,564
2007-08	1,001,019
2008-09	1,034,094

The costs include maintenance costs that the Department undertake on behalf of MHRA and who are billed for this work. However, MHRA are in buildings where the landlord undertakes some of the maintenance and building improvement work and charge MHRA on a pro rata basis with other tenants in the buildings. MHRA are unable to break the figures down between maintenance and improving departmental buildings.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which services his Department has outsourced in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274447]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2006, an agreement was entered into with Xansa UK Ltd., which involved three Government Departments, the Department of Health, Directgov and the Department for Education and Skills. This agreement was for the provision of a fully managed and hosted Content Management System and related services for each of the Departments' websites.

In 2008, an agreement was entered into with NHS Shared Business Services for the provision of support services for the Department's Business Management System. The outsourcing is not quite complete but the only action left is to finalise the terms and conditions of the contract. It is estimated that this will be complete by June 2009.

No other central support functions have been outsourced within the last five years.

Departmental Marketing

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much planned expenditure on advertising has been incurred by his Department and its executive agencies in each month of each of the last five years. [270381]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are undertaking a review and reconciliation process on the last five years of the Department's advertising spend and so I regret the information requested is not currently available.

Departmental Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 939W, on official cars, how many of the cars *(a)* hired and *(b)* leased by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies are over six years old. [276737]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1489, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Additionally, the Department and its Executive agencies, NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) and the Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have an arrangement with Arval PHH for hire of vehicles. This is part of an Office of Government Commerce framework contract, which does not stipulate the age of the vehicle.

The Department previously reported in its answer on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 939W, that it had two private lease vehicles used by departmental staff under an arrangement operated by HM Revenue and Customs. These two leased vehicles were disposed of in February of this year.

NHS PASA have a number of leased vehicles but none are over six years old. Leases are taken out on a three-year term.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274200]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental spend on recycled office supplies and printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years is:

		£
Period	*Supplies*	*Cartridges*
2004-05	101,826	—
2005-06	88,158	—
2006-07	206,774	47,930
2007-08	205,680	6,587
2008-09	277,888	7,851

The increase over time in expenditure on recycled office supplies is due largely to a move to the use of recycled paper.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274484]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold any central records of student placements or persons on work experience, and national health service trainees. These are arranged by local sections and directorates. It would incur disproportionate costs to collect the information requested.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of answers to parliamentary questions provided by his Department have been the subject of a subsequent correction in each of the last five years; how many such corrections have been made by *(a)* Written Ministerial Correction, *(b)* a letter to the hon. Member tabling the Question and *(c)* other means; and what criteria his Department uses to determine by which method to issue a correction. [277237]

Mr. Bradshaw: The procedure for making corrections to answers to parliamentary questions was introduced from November 2007 and information is not available from an earlier date.

Since November 2007, we have made 22 written ministerial corrections and issued six written ministerial statements to correct written answers. This represents 0.2 per cent. of the 12,310 written Commons questions received during that period. For the criteria used to judge whether a correction or a statement should be issued, I refer the hon. Member to the 2nd Report from the Procedure Committee "Corrections to the Official Report" (HC541) on 19 June 2007 and the written ministerial statement issued by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal (Harriet Harman) on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 55WS. On each case, we seek advice from the Table Office.

Derriford Hospital: Waiting Lists

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients waited less than 13 weeks for an outpatient appointment at Derriford Hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [276359]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information on the number of patients who waited less than 13 weeks for an out-patient appointment at Derriford Hospital is not available in the format requested. Information is only available by trust and on the number of patients still waiting under 13 weeks at the end of each month. Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust had 6,636 out-patients waiting under 13 weeks at the end of March 2009. The trust had one patient waiting over 13 weeks.

Disability Aids

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services programme; and if he will make a statement. [277670]

Phil Hope: The Transforming Community Equipment team has designed a radical new model for delivery of community equipment, which will give state-supported users the choice not previously available. This has been adopted by seven local authorities and we are currently working with a further 10 partnerships.

The Department is considering the future model for wheelchair services.

Drugs: Durham

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the treatment of drug misuse in the Durham Primary Care Trust area in each of the last three years. [276997]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows expenditure on substance misuse by the County Durham Primary Care Trust for the last three years in which data are available.

	Expenditure on own population (£000)
2004-05	3,412
2005-06	3,988
2006-07	4,362

Note:
Figures do not include prevention or general medical services expenditure.
Source:
Department of Health Programme Budgeting

Drugs: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people in Easington constituency who received treatment for drug misuse in each of the last three years. [276998]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the estimated number of people in treatment in Easington for the last three years in which data are available.

	Number(1)
2006-07	
Easington adults	590
Easington young people	51
2007-08	
Easington adults	553
Easington young people	49
2008-09	
Easington adults	425
Easington young people	60

Notes:
1. Estimated figures are provided for the three year period 2006-07 to 2008-09
2. Estimated figures have been provided by County Durham Drug and Alcohol Action Team and adults are defined as 18 or over, young people are under 18.

Health Services: Young People

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under the age of 18 years *(a)* in each strategic health authority and *(b)* treated by each healthcare provider had diagnosis codes of (i) W26, (ii) W32, (iii) W33, (iv) W34, (v) W50, (vi) X93, (vii) X94, (viii) X95, (ix) X99, (x) Y00, (xi) Y04, (xii) Y08, (xiii) Y09, (xiv) Y22, (xv), Y23 and (xvi) Y24 in each of the last six years. [276424]

Dawn Primarolo: A response to the question has been provided by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence for each year (2002-03 to 2007-08) and a copy has been placed in the Library. It is not possible to include the requested information by healthcare provider/trust because the numbers would be so small that the vast majority would need to be suppressed in order to preserve anonymity.

Due to the SHA reconfiguration in 2006-07, 28 SHAs merged to form 10 larger SHAs. The number of admissions do not represent the number of patients as a patient may have been admitted more than once within the year.

Herbal Medicine: EU Action

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications have been received by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for the registration of products under the provisions of the EU Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; how many such applications have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected; how many such applications remain under consideration; and what guidance is available to small and medium-sized companies on making such applications. [276547]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has so far received 68 applications to register products under the traditional herbal registration scheme implemented in line with the requirements of Directive 2004/24/EC. 31 registrations have been granted and the remaining 37 applications are under assessment. To date no applications have been refused.

A wide range of European guidelines is available for industry, for example on meeting the relevant quality and manufacturing standards. We recognise that moving from a largely unregulated environment into systematic medicines regulation represents a significant challenge for parts of the over-the-counter herbal medicines sector. Accordingly, the MHRA has been running a programme to manage the regulatory impact of the directive. This includes the opportunity for individual companies seeking to progress applications to register products under the scheme to be given regulatory and scientific advice. Our expectation is that, as with any such new scheme, with growing experience an increasing range of companies will become confident in operating under these regulatory arrangements.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the NHS bed availability and occupancy statistics for 2008-09. [277040]

Mr. Bradshaw: As set out in the Department's statistics publication plan available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/CodeOfPractice/DH_4016423

NHS bed availability and occupancy statistics for 2008-09 will be published on 30 September 2009. A copy of the plan has been placed in the Library.

Measles: Vaccination

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children aged six years old and under have been inoculated against measles in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [276625]

Dawn Primarolo: Information of the percentage of children immunised against measles, mumps and rubella by their fifth birthday is contained in 'NHS Immunisation Statistics, England 2007-08', which has already been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an estimate of the number of NHS counsellors required to deal with the increase in mental health problems resulting from the economic downturn in 2009. [276618]

Phil Hope: No estimate has been made at national level, as the provision of mental health staff is decided by the national health service locally. However, we know that demand for psychological help rises in economic downturns, so the Secretary of State for Health and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced in March a £13 million package of measures to support people with distress. The package involves accelerating the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme and ensuring that all the programme's services recruit employment support co-ordinators to join up health and job centre services in ways that are tailor-made for individuals' different situations. As a result of these measures, every primary care trust in the country will be beginning to offer these services next year.

Mentally Ill: Prisoners

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response he has made to the recommendation made in the Bradley Report on people with mental health problems in the criminal justice system for a minimum target for the NHS of 14 days to transfer a prisoner with acute, severe mental illness to an appropriate healthcare setting. [276616]

Phil Hope: The Department is currently exploring ways to make progress towards a 14-day standard waiting time for transfers, through the provision of guidance and support to the national health service and criminal justice system to work in closer partnership and reduce delays for this vulnerable group.

The Government recognise that there is a need to improve the timeliness of access to secure mental health care by prisoners with acute, severe mental illness. In his report on people with mental health problems or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system (published 30 April 2009), Lord Bradley has recommended that a target of 14 days should be set. The Government's Health and Criminal Justice Board, which is just being established, will consider the feasibility of such a target. It will also ensure that where further guidance to the NHS and criminal justice agencies is necessary, this is issued by 2010, so that along with improved commissioning of services and availability of secure health services, the goals of improved security and timely access to secure health services by prisoners can be achieved.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for transfer from prison to hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983 was in *(a)* each primary care trust area, *(b)* each prison and *(c)* England in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [276617]

Phil Hope: Information is not available in the requested format. Each prison records the waiting time for mental health transfers, starting from acceptance as suitable for transfer under the Mental Health Act 2007 to actual transfer date. Data on individual prisons are reported by each primary care trust but are not collected centrally.

The indicator which is traditionally reported nationally is the number awaiting transfer for 12 weeks or longer. These data are collected quarterly and data for the four most recent years are shown in the following table.

Number of prisoners with a severe mental illness, and who had been waiting longer than 12 weeks for transfer from prison to hospital, in England 2005-08

Reporting period	*Number of individuals waiting longer than 12 weeks for a transfer to hospital*
March 2005	51
June 2005	62
September 2005	58
December 2005	40
March 2006	43
June 2006	44
September 2006	43
December 2006	38
March 2007	44
June 2007	46
September 2007	51
December 2007	41
March 2008	24
June 2008	36
September 2008	34
December 2008	26

Source:
Offender Mental Health—Department of Health/Ministry of Justice

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to wind up the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA); what effect he expects the winding up of NHS PASA to have on *(a)* the NHS business services contract with DHL and *(b)* cost savings achieved on the contract with DHL in the 12 month period following the wind up. [277201]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) will be closed before April 2010 as a consequence of the information of the new Commercial Operating Model, published on 7 May 2009 and copies have been placed in the Library. However, in order to support planned efficiencies it is anticipated that much of the transition of functions will be concluded by September 2009.

The closure of NHS PASA will not affect the Department's contract with DHL or the cost savings achievable on the contract.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency: Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency has spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [276369]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency has spent nil on hospitality and entertainment over the last five years.

NHS: Expenditure

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department monitors the expenditure by primary care trusts of funding provided by his Department. [276988]

Mr. Bradshaw: Each primary care trust (PCT) has a statutory duty to maintain its expenditure within the resource limits set for revenue and capital. The Department monitors PCT expenditure and performance against this duty at regular intervals during the year, and reports the aggregate PCT financial position in the audited PCT summarised account after the year end.

During the financial year, the Department collects detailed information relating to the financial position of all national health service (NHS) organisations, including PCTs, on a quarterly basis. In addition, the Department also collects key financial performance data from the NHS in a number of the intervening months between each quarter. Information relating to each PCTs forecast outturn and revenue resource limit (RRL) is published in "The Quarter", the Department's regular update on NHS finance and service performance.

At the end of each financial year, PCTs publish their audited statutory accounts and submit accounting summarisation schedules to the Department. These schedules are aggregated, and the result both consolidated into the Department's overall Resource account and used to produce the PCT summarised account.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what projections his Department has made of the change in each NHS hospital trust's income resulting from the implementation of HRG4; [277043]

(2) how much each hospital earned under HRG3 in the latest year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the income each would have earned for the same work in that period under HRG4. [277044]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information about national health service hospital income from the national tariff is not separately identified in their accounts. However, the Department has collected this information as part of the central payment mechanism for the market forces factor (MFF) since 2005-06. The latest available information is for 2007-08, when healthcare resource group (HRG) version 3.5 was the tariff currency, and is shown in table 1.

The Department has made no estimate of what NHS hospital income would have been in 2007-08 under HRG4. However, the Department did consider the impact on NHS hospital national tariff income between 2008-09 and 2009-10 resulting from the move from HRG version 3.5 to HRG5 in 2009-10 and this is shown in table 2. Because this analysis also includes the impact of the revised MFF, and uses historical activity data from 2006-07 and 2007-08 and national assumptions which may vary locally, it is only an estimate of the actual impact of HRG4.

Copies of both tables have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* methodology and *(b)* criteria are used to determine the NHS Tariff. [277077]

Mr. Bradshaw: The methodology and criteria underpinning the calculation of the national tariff are described in a step-by-step guide, which is published annually. The guide for 2009-10 has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_094182

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* job description, *(b)* salary band and *(c)* grade is of each official in his Department working on the NHS Tariff. [277198]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table includes information for all staff involved in work which contributes to the production of the national tariff, including the collection of reference costs and costing policy, future tariff development and governance procedures. The salary scales shown are the minimum and maximum salaries for staff, who can be based in either Leeds or London.

Grade	*Salary band in 2009-10*	*Headcount*	*Job descriptions*
Senior Civil Service 2	£82,900 - £162,500	1	Head of classification and costing
Senior Civil Service 1	£58,200 - £117,750	2	Heads of development and operations
Grade 6	£54,617 - £73,828	3	Senior managers for currency and tariff development, tariff pricing and structure, governance and evaluation
Grade 7	£43,348 - £60,962	7	Section heads for policy, costing, analysis and economic advice
Senior Executive Officer	£32,148 - £45,118	11	Senior policy, tariff development, costing and analysis managers
Fast Stream	£28,884 - £41,546	4	Assistant economists and policy managers
Higher Executive Officer	£25,534 - £33,019	4	Assistant analysis and business managers
Executive Officer	£20,417 - £28,112	3	Policy and business support
Administrative Officer	£16,229 - £19,478	1	Administrative support

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of each local service provider contract for the National Programme for IT is apportioned to the Care Records Service; [272545]

(2) what the estimated cost of each system within the National Care Records Service is; and what the cost of each contract for delivery of the service is. [272546]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Care Record Service (NHS CRS) comprises a number of national services, and compliant local applications, for example, trust patient administration systems and general practitioner systems. The key nationally-funded components of the NHS CRS are delivered via the spine and the local service provider (LSP) contracts.

The estimated lifetime value of the relevant contracts is in the table at 2004-05 prices. This was the basis used in "The National Programme for IT in the NHS: Project Progress Report" (National Audit Office 16 May 2008).

Contract	*£ million*
BT LSP	[1]1,567.0
South LSP	[2]—
CSC LSP	3,007.0
Spine	889.0

[1] Original value £1,021 million, but including an addition for work in the South now transferred by Contract Change Notice (CCN) to BT.

[2] This contract, with Fujitsu, was terminated at the end of May 2008. The value of future planned expenditure on national programme systems and services in the South will be determined following a review of local national health service requirements, and subject to relevant business case approval.

Costs specific to the individual components of the NHS CRS supported by the spine are not separately identified within the spine contract. The value of LSP contracts and entitlement to payment under the contracts is structured around the provision and ongoing support to NHS organisations within the LSP area of the complete raft of systems and services that will meet the agreed requirements set out in the contracts. The contracts do not specify costs relating to individual systems and services.

NHS: Public Participation

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward legislation to compel NHS Foundation Trusts to hold board meetings in public; and if he will make a statement. [274915]

Mr. Bradshaw: A written ministerial statement on Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust (FT) was issued on 30 April in response to the reports of the independent reviews undertaken by Professor Sir George Alberti and Dr. David Colin-Thomé.

There is no legal requirement for board of directors meetings to be open to the public and there are no plans to bring forward legislation to compel them to do so. However, the Government response to the Alberti and Colin-Thomé reports stated:

> "These reports and the Health Commission report were highly critical of the closed culture that operated at Stafford Hospital. All NHS organisations must ensure they are operating in accordance with current guidance, which promotes openness, transparency and accountability to their local populations, including boards holding meetings in public."

The NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance, published by Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS FTs, states that the board of directors of an NHS FT should

> "follow a policy of openness and transparency in its proceedings and decision making unless this conflicts with a need to protect the wider interests of the public or the NHS foundation trust (including commercial-in-confidence matters) and make clear how potential conflicts of interests are dealt with".

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed on patient choice in the NHS. [276710]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department commissions and reviews numerous papers on choice. The following answer shows the details of many of the papers, research and surveys on patient choice that the Department has commissioned and reviewed in recent years.

As part of its ongoing patient choice programme the Department commissions research on various aspects of choice policy.

The Department commissioned a series of national patient choice surveys to assess the implementation of choice at primary care trust (PCT) level. The National Patient Choice Survey is a series of surveys, conducted by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Department. They monitor patient awareness of choice and recall of having been offered a choice of hospital for their first outpatient appointment. They were designed to provide a national overview of choice with summary results at PCT level (initially bi-monthly and now quarterly) and generally have an effective response rate around 30 per cent. Surveys also contain information on respondents' age, sex and ethnicity. The report of the December 2008 survey was published on 7 May 2009.

The Health Reform Evaluation Programme (HREP) is a programme of research being coordinated by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) to evaluate the reforms set out in the Department's publication "Health Reform in England: update and next steps". This includes research on a range of issues including patient choice. Final reporting will begin in 2010. As part of the HREP, LSHTM have also conducted a "systematic review of the impact of patient choice of provider in the English NHS[1]" (2009). An ongoing study under this programme which is yet to report is entitled "Effects of choice and market reform on inequalities of access to health care".

The Department commissions a module on attitudes to health issues in the British Social Attitudes annual survey conducted by Natcen. This involves a series of questions about social attitudes towards health and health services. Some of these questions are about attitudes towards patient choice. The results of the survey are published in a report on an annual basis[2].

The Department is conducting regional awareness campaigns on patient choice and has commissioned an evaluation of these campaigns.

Other research on patient choice commissioned by the Department includes:

Title of document/research programme	*Date*	*Author*	*Available from/on*
London Patient Choice Programme	2005	NHS London	www.londonchoice.nhs.uk/about-programmeoverview.php
Are patients choosing?	2009	Henderson, Robertson and Dixon	British Journal of Healthcare Management 15 (2): 77-80
NHS maternity services quantitative research	2005	TNS System Three	www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4124246
Literature review on choice and mental health	2005	Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health	www.library.nhs.uk/PPI/ViewResource.aspx?resID=250438

The Department reviews research on various aspects of choice policy. Following is a table with details of many of the pieces of research that have been reviewed that are directly relevant to patient choice in the national health service.

Title of document	*Date*	*Author*	*Available from/on*
Improving choice at end of life. London: King's Fund	2008	Addicott, R. and Dewar, S. King's Fund	http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/research/publications/improving_choice_at.html
Cancer and the future of Choice	2006	Barclay, M. (Macmillan Cancer Support)	

Title of document	*Date*	*Author*	*Available from/on*
"Why do patients change their general practitioner? A postal questionnaire study of patients in Avon"	1993	Billighurst, B. and Whitfield, M.	British Journal of General Practice 43: 336-338
Will more choice improve outcomes in Education and Health Care?	2005	Burgess, S. The Evidence from Economic Research. CMPO: London	www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/CMPO/choice.pdf
Just what the patient ordered. Better GP services. CBI: London	2007	CBI	www.cbi.org.uk/pdf/gpservices0907.pdf
A healthy choice: building a stronger NHS. CBI: London	2008	CBI	www.cbi.org.uk/pdf/ A%20healthy%20choice_Building%20a%20stronger%20NHS_June2008.pdf
Hospital at Home or Acute Hospital Care? A Cost-Minimisation Analysis	1998	Coast J., Richards S.H., Peters T.J., Gunnell D.J., Darlow M.A., Pounsford J.	BMJ 316: 1802-1806
"Registering choice: how primary care should change to meet patients needs"	2005	Corrigan, Social Market Foundation	http://www.smf.co.uk/registering-choice-how-primary-care-should-change-to-meet-patient-needsl.html
Evaluation of London Patient Choice	2004	Coulter A. et al (Picker Institute)	www.londonchoice.nhs.uk/documents/Patient-Experience-Study-LPC-(PICKER).pdf
Evidence on the effectiveness of strategies to improve patients' experience of cancer care	2007	Coulter, A.	www.pickereurope.org/Filestore/PIE_reports/project_reports/ Cancer_reform_strategy_Macmillan.pdf
Where are the patients in decision-making about their own care? Copenhagen: WHO	2008	Coulter, A. et al	www.euro.who.int/document/hsm/3_hsc08__ePB_6.pdf
Patients' involvement in decisions about medicines. GPs' perceptions of their preferences.	2007	Cox, K., Britten, N., Hooper, R. and White, P.	British Journal of General Practise 57: 777–784
Our Choices in Mental Health	2006	CSIP	www.parliament.uk/deposits/depositedpapers/2009/DEP2009-0074.pdf
Audit of Acute Maternity Services	2006	Department of Health	
Building on the Best: Choice, Responsiveness and Equity in the NHS	2003	Department of Health	www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_4068391
Choice Matters. Working with libraries	2008	Department of Health	www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/ PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083956
Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service	2007	Department of Health	www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/ PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_073312
Long Term Conditions Personal Care Plan Impact Assessment	2009	DH	http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/ DH_095647
Patient choice: What does 'choice' mean to people with diabetes?	2005	Diabetes UK	http://www.diabetes.org.uk/en/Professionals/Information_resources/Reports/ Patient_choice/
Is greater choice consistent with equity. The case of the English NHS.	2006	Dixon, A. and Le Grand, J.	Journal of Health Services and Policy 11: 162-166
Patient choice in general practice: the implications of patient satisfaction surveys	2008	Dixon, A. et al	Journal of Health Services and Policy 13: 67-72
Patients choosing their healthcare	2005	Dr. Foster	www.drfoster.co.uk/patientchoice/pdf/Patient_Choice_Workbook.pdf
Patient Choice and the Organisation and Delivery of Health Services: Scoping Review	2005	Fotaki M. et al	
What benefits will choice bring to patients? Literature review and assessment of implications.	2008	Fotaki, M. et al	Journal of Health Services and Policy 13(3): 178-184
A bed too far. The implementation of freedom of choice policy in the NHS.	2008	Garcia-Lacalle, J.	Health Policy 87: 31-40
Home or Hospital? Choices at the end of life.	2004	Gomes, B. and Higginson, I.	Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine 97(9): 413-414
National survey of local health services 2008	2008	Healthcare Commission	http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/_db/_documents/ PCT08_Comparative_tables_v4_1-24-07-08_-_backup.pdf
Does Publicising Hospital Performance Stimulate Quality Improvement Efforts?	2003	Hibbard, J. et al	Health Affairs, vol 22, no 2

Title of document	*Date*	*Author*	*Available from/on*
Priorities and Preferences for End of Life Care in England, Wales and Scotland	2003	Higginson I.J. National Council for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care Services	
NHS Reforms Workshops	2006	Ipsos-MORI	
Choice in Mental Health Care	2006	King's Fund and SCMH	www.scmh.org.uk/pdfs/briefing31_choice_in_mental_health_care.pdf
Improving Choice at end of life	2008	King's Fund	http://www.kingsfund.org.u/research/publications/improving_choice_at.html
LSE Depression Report	2006	LSE—CEP	cep.lse.ac.uk/textonly/research/mentalhealth/depression_report_layard.pdf
"Choice and Contestability in primary care"	2004	Maclean (2004) Social Market Foundation Health Commission	http://smf.smf.co.uk/choice-and-contestability-in-primary-care.html
Liverpool Care Pathway: Promoting best practice for care of the dying	2006	Marie Curie	http://www.lcp-mariecurie.org.uk/
Valuing Choice—Dying at home	2004	Marie Curie	campaign.mariecurie.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/646C31D0-49C1-42C5-8BFE-D1A8F3F3A499/0/campaign_valuing_choice.pdf
British Social Attitudes: the 22nd report. Two terms of New Labour the Public's reaction	2005	Natcen	http://www.natcen.ac.uk/natcen/pages/op_socialattitudes.htm#bsa
End of Life Care	2008	National Audit Office	http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0708/end_of_life_care.aspx
The NHS Cancer Plan and the New NHS: Providing a Patient-Centred Service	2004	NHS	
Impact of patients' socioeconomic status on the distance travelled for hospital admission in the English National Health Service	2007	Propper, C. et al	Journal of Health Services Research, vol 12, No 3. The Royal Society of Medicine Press: London
Does competition between Hospitals Improve the Quality of Care? Hospital Death Rates and the NHS Internal Market. University of Bristol, CEPR and CMPO	2007	Propper, C. et al	Ideas.repec.org/a/eee/pubeco/v88y2004i7-8p1247-1272.html
The costs of alternative types of routine antenatal care for low-risk women: shared care vs. care by general practitioners and community midwives	1996	Ratcliffe J., Ryan M., Tucker J.	J Health Serv Res Policy 1(3): 135-40
Patient choice	2008	Robertson, R. and Thorlby, R.	www.kingsfund.org.uk/document.rm?id=7356
"Patient Choice in general practice: the implications of patient satisfaction surveys"	2008	Robertson, R. Dixon, A. Le Grand, J. (2008)	Journal of Health Services Research Policy 13(2): 67-72
The anatomy of GP referral decisions: A qualitative study of GP views on their role in supporting patient choice	2006	Rosen, R., Florin, D. and Hutt, R.	www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/the_kings_fund_publications/an_anatomy_of_gp.html
Randomised Controlled Trial Comparing Hospital at Home with Inpatient Hospital Care. II: Cost Minimisation Analysis	1998	Shepperd S., Harwood D., Gray A. Vessey M. Morgan P.	BMJ 316: 1791-1796
Economic analysis of two models of low risk maternity care: a freestanding birth centre compared to traditional care	2000	Stone P.W., Zwangziger J., Hinton P.H., Buenting J.	Res Nurs Health 23: 279-89
Implications of offering "Patient Choice" for routine adult surgical referrals	2004	Taylor R./Dr. Foster Ltd./ University of Nottingham	
An Overview of the Literature on Palliative Care in Primary Care	2003	(Taken from chapter 5 in 'Caring for the Dying at Home: Companions on the Journey by Thomas K. (2003))	http://www.goldstandardsframework.nhs.uk/content/guides_and_presentations/Evidence_base.pdf_
Free choice at the point of referral	2008	Thorlby, R. and Gregory, S.	www.kingsfund.org.uk/document.rm?id=7526
Choice and Equity. PCT Survey.	2007	Thorlby, R. and T[illegible]rner, P. Kings Fund	http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/404.rm?doclink=true&destination_id=6915&referer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Elibrary%2Enhs%2Euk%2Fhealthmanagement%2FViewResource%2Easpx%3FresID%3D260851

Title of document	*Date*	*Author*	*Available from/on*
Patient reactions to hospital choice in Norway, Denmark, and Sweden	2007	Vrangbaek, K. et al	Health Economics, Policy and Law, Vol. 2, pp: 125-152
Exploring cost and quality: Community based versus traditional hospital delivery	1996	Walker, P., Stone, P.	J Health Care Finance 23:23-41
Improving Supportive and Palliative Care for Adults with Cancer. Economic Review.	2004	Ward S., Salzano S., Sampson F., Cowan J./NICE	
NHS Messaging: Attitudes of NHS staff	2004	Wardle McLean	
Choice literature review	2006	Warner et al. / Kings Fund and SCMH	
Palliative Care: The Solid Facts	2004	World Health Organisation Europe (edited by Davies, E. and Higginson, I.J.)	http://www.euro.who.int/informationSources/Publications/Catalogue/20050118_2
The costs to the NHS of maternity care: midwife-managed vs. shared	1997	Young, D., Lees, A., Twaddle, S.	Br J Midwifery 5(8): 465-71
The lure of patient choice	2007	Bryant, L.D., Bown, N., Bekker, H.L., and House, A.	British Journal of General Practice 57: 822-826

[1] http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hsru/hrep/publications/index.htm

[2] http://www.natcen.ac.uk/bsa/

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264059]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has engaged actors, musicians and other performers for advertising and publicity activities (for example, public health campaigns) and for staff learning and development activities (for example, to conduct role plays during training courses).

It is not possible to provide the information in the format requested. The information that is available is included in the following table.

Public Health Campaigns 2008-09

Campaign	*Date*	*Size*	*Overall campaign cost in 2008-09*	*Celebrity/used? What for?*
Change4Life	2008-09	Television/poster/print ads/media partners/ online/leaflets	£25 million	No[1]
Know Your Units (part of Know Your Limits)	2008-09	Television/poster/print ads/online	£7million	No
FRANK	2008-09	Television/poster/print/radio/online	£6.5 million[2]	No
HPV vaccine	2008-09	Television/radio/posters/print/online	£4 million	No
Condom Essential Wear	2008-09	Advertising (television, cinema, radio, print, ambient and online), PR, partnership activity, stakeholder engagement, other digital activity, research and distribution of campaign materials.	£5.2 million	No
5 A Day "What Counts"	2008-09	Posters/print/online	£500,000	Melinda Messenger. As well as taking part in the video with 5 A DAY case study mums, she also took part in a photoshoot with press photographers. She gave many interviews with the media and provided quotations, comments and top tips for use in the media in support of the 5 A DAY campaign.
Breastfeeding "Breast Buddy"	2008-09	Posters/print/online	£1 million	Jenny Frost (a new mum) was used to promote breastfeeding. She did personal appearances and interviews.
Smokefree (tobacco)	2008-09	Television/posters/print/radio/online/media partnerships/stakeholder activity/helplines/research	£43 million	MSN created a website which included five video diaries from Gary Lucy, Gemma Bissex and Sian Reeves as they tried to give up.
Catch It Bin It Kill It	21 November 2008	Radio/press/online/ambient ads, plus radio content, and research	£1.781 million	Donna Air, actress and mother. Helped launch campaign with radio interviews. Presented small video for online use.
Seasonal Flu	3 October 2008	Television/radio/pharmacy bags/online ads plus PR/leaflets/distribution/research	£1.9 million	No

[1] Professor Tanya Byron has been paid to promote the Change4Life campaign. She is employed as an expert but I have included her in the costs as she may be seen by some as a celebrity.

[2] Department of Health and Home Office

Total campaigns cost was £95.9 million.

Total celebrity costs were £89,384.

The percentage of campaigns costs spent on celebrities was 0.09 per cent.

Schizophrenia

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of psycho-educational therapies in the treatment of those diagnosed with schizophrenia. [276713]

Phil Hope: The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published updated clinical guidance on schizophrenia in March, which identifies no new robust evidence for the effectiveness of psycho-education on any critical outcomes. NICE has not, therefore, recommended psycho-education for treating schizophrenia.

This guidance is available online from NICE at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG82/Guidance/pdf/English

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Prisoners

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of sexually transmitted infections have been recorded in prisons amongst *(a)* men and *(b)* women inmates in each of the last five years. [276[illegible]9]

Phil Hope: The Department does not have a complete dataset on the number of sexually transmitted infections among prisoners (male or female) in the last five years. The issue of disaggregating data by prison is currently being explored with the Health Protection Agency.

Sight Impaired: Gloucestershire

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in *(a)* Forest of Dean constituency and *(b)* Gloucestershire who (i) have a visual impairment and (ii) are registered blind. [277224]

Phil Hope: The information on the number of people in Forest of Dean constituency and Gloucestershire who have a visual impairment and are registered blind is not available in the format requested. Information is only available for councils with social services responsibilities. The number of people registered as blind and partially sighted in Gloucestershire council at 31 March 2008 was 1,530 and 1,885 respectively.

Swine Flu

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken to ensure that hospitals are able to deal with a swine influenza pandemic; [276620]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the likelihood of a swine influenza pandemic; [276630]

(3) what steps his Department has taken to prepare for a possible swine influenza pandemic. [2766[illegible]]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has already provided a great deal of support to hospitals in the form of guidance and on-going workshops to ensure that contingency and business continuity issues have been thought through in advance of a pandemic and addressed. Model exercises have been provided to support the national health service in raising awareness and testing the robustness of these plans. Each primary care trust also has a designated flu lead to assist organisations with planning across their geographic area.

We have published guidance on infection control in hospitals and surgeries, and advice to staff treating or caring for patients with flu symptoms. A copy has been placed in the Library. We have also issued guidance to ambulance trusts. A copy of this guidance has already been placed in the Library.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State stated on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1059-1095, that the likelihood of the current outbreak developing into a full blown pandemic remains high, but there are still many uncertainties about the virus. That is still the case. Scientists are learning more every day and we are continuing to monitor the situation so that if the virulence or severity of the virus worsens we can react quickly.

The Department has been planning for a possible influenza pandemic for some time and has robust plans in place. We have enough antiviral stocks to cover 50 per cent. of the population (some 33.5 million courses); we are further increasing the stockpile so that it is enough to cover 80 per cent. of the population (some 50 million courses).

We also expect flu line, which will be used to assess symptoms and authorise anti-virals for individuals, to be operational by the autumn, thus ensuring we have additional capability to respond to a re-emergence of the virus.

On 15 May, the Government also announced the signing of agreements with vaccine manufacturers for up to 90 million doses of a pre-pandemic vaccine based on the current H1N1 strain. The agreements could provide enough vaccine to protect the most vulnerable groups in our population before a pandemic is likely to arrive. In the event of a pandemic, the advanced purchase agreements previously signed with Baxter and GlaxoSmithKline will be activated; these will enable the United Kingdom to purchase enough vaccine to cover 100 per cent. of the UK population.

In addition, we are increasing our stocks of facemasks, respirators and antibiotics to ensure we have sufficient stocks of countermeasures to tackle a re-emergence of swine influenza later in the year.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on distribution to households of information leaflets on swine influenza to date; when he expects national distribution to be complete; and if he will make a statement. [277246]

Dawn Primarolo: The distribution of the swine influenza information leaflets to households has been completed for the vast majority of the United Kingdom. We are awaiting confirmation of delivery to a few outstanding areas.

Treatment Centres

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is issued to primary care trusts on conducting value for money assessments of their contracts with companies running independent sector treatment centres. [277333]

Mr. Bradshaw: Value for Money tests were conducted during the procurement of all Wave One and Phase Two Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) contracts.

Robust contract management also takes place throughout the life of an ISTC contract. All ISTC providers have a contractual obligation to provide key performance indicator information to both the Department and the local national health service. This information is monitored to ensure that contracts are effectively delivered.

The Department has not issued guidance to primary care trusts in England on conducting value for money assessments of their contracts with companies running ISTC.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Brass Bands: Finance

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England awarded in grants to brass bands in each of the last five years. [275823]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England have advised that they have awarded grants to brass bands in each of the last five years as follows:

£

	Grants for the arts	*Regularly funded organisations*	*Total*
2004-05	139,479	31,115	170,594
2005-06	95,901	31,642	132,358
2006-07	89,300	22,240	116,470
2007-08	24,362	22,850	49,612
2008-09	116,908	23,467	140,375

Dance: Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made towards establishing six new Centres of Advanced Training for dance. [277136]

Barbara Follett: Government responsibility for Centres for Advanced Training (CATs) in dance falls to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, who advise that the Department's Dance Scheme currently supports seven CATs in dance with two more centres coming on stream during school year 2009-10. There will then be dance CATs serving every region of the country, with CATs in the south-east and south-west also establishing satellite centres to enable even more young people to benefit from the training on offer.

Film: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which EU grant programmes provide funding for the EU film industry. [277189]

Barbara Follett: MEDIA 2007 is the European Commission's funding programme to support the European audiovisual industries, which runs from 2007-13.

Gyms: Elderly

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to provide free gym access for those over the age of 60 years. [275834]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The Government have no present plan to extend the Free Swimming Programme to provide free gym access for those over the age of 60 years. Around 10 million people aged 60 or over in England stand to benefit from the Government's Free Swimming Programme. We will be monitoring closely the impact of the scheme on levels of participation.

Internet

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the number of households which have access to *(a)* the internet and *(b)* digital television. [276248]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is as follows.

(a) There is narrowband internet available to all of the UK. The Universal Service Obligation means that a fixed line is available to every UK household. Total Internet take up is at 65 per cent. of UK households.

(b) At present, 80 per cent. of UK households have access to digital terrestrial television. When switchover is complete it will be 98.5 per cent.

Digital satellite coverage is 98 per cent. Virgin Media states that 49 per cent. of households in the UK were able to get cable services at the end of 2007.

Mass Media: Economic Situation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on measures to mitigate the effects on local economies of job losses in the newspaper and broadcast media sectors. [276202]

Andy Burnham: Government are aware of the intense challenges facing local news providers and I held a summit with key stakeholders on 28 April to discuss the key issues. I now aim to build on that discussion working with other relevant ministerial colleagues.

National Lottery: Southend-on-Sea

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much unclaimed National Lottery winnings there are *(a)* in total and *(b)* arising from tickets sold in Southend-on-Sea; and how unclaimed money is managed. [275560]

Barbara Follett: From the launch of the National Lottery in 1994 to 9 May 2009, unclaimed prizes total £1,078 million.

The National Lottery operator, Camelot, does not keep records of the total value of unclaimed prizes based on constituency, district, county or postcode areas. However, Camelot does hold records of all unclaimed prizes with a value of over £50,000. To date there has been one such unclaimed prize in the Southend-on-Sea area.

Unclaimed prizes are paid to the good causes 180 days after the relevant draw, the end of the relevant Scratchcard game or the date on which the Interactive Instant Win Game was played.

During the 180 day period the unclaimed prizes are held in Player Trust Accounts. During this time Camelot is required to make every effort to publicise larger unclaimed prizes in the area where the ticket was purchased in order to encourage winners to come forward.

Olympic Games 2012

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the merits of changing the name of the Olympics team from Team GB to one that encompasses all of the United Kingdom. [276100]

Andy Burnham: Responsibility for "Team GB", including the name itself, rests with the British Olympic Association (BOA). The BOA is independent of Government.

VisitBritain

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much it cost to produce VisitBritain's framework review document. [277375]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have advised that the total cost of the British Tourism Framework Review was £350,316.85. Of this £187,126 was for primary, newly commissioned research for the benefit of the whole UK tourism industry, which is free and publicly available on the VisitBritain website.

The remaining costs were for extensive national consultation meetings which took place throughout Britain; the dissemination, publishing and associated production costs of the final review and supporting reports; and for consultancy and project management.

VisitIreland

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has provided funding to VisitIreland for 2009-10. [277038]

Barbara Follett: DCMS does not provide funding to VisitIreland.

VisitBritain who receive grant in aid from DCMS will be sponsoring the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's annual awards at a cost of £5,000.00 plus VAT during the financial year 2009-10.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcohol Disorder Zones

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police services and *(b)* local authorities have issued a notice of proposal to designate an alcohol disorder zone in the last two years. [270341]

Mr. Alan Campbell: To date, the Home Office has not been informed of any proposal to designate an alcohol disorder zone by any police service or local authority, since they were commenced on 5 June 2008.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for offences related to drunkenness there have been in each police force area in Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [270672]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of drunkenness in Wales, by police force area, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is given in table 1.

A penalty notice for disorder (PND) may be given for certain offences of drunkenness. The number of persons issued with a PND for drunkenness in Wales, by police force area, from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are given in table 2. The PND scheme was implemented in all 43 police force areas in England and Wales in 2004.

Data relating to the number of persons found guilty of offences of drunkenness in Wales, and the number cautioned for these offences can also be found at Annex A and B.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of drunkenness[1] in Wales, by police force area, 2003-07[2,3]

Police force area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Dyfed-Powys	1,240	1,220	1,100	1,068	1,092
Gwent	1,340	1,410	1,330	1,379	1,425
North Wales	1,834	1,706	1,498	1,516	1,473
South Wales	3,554	3,778	3,633	2,996	2,667
Total	7,968	8,114	7,561	6,959	6,657

Offence class 140, 141, 803

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 ss. 1(4) and 1A(4), 2(2); Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s.12; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 s.174; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 s.9(4); Town Police Clauses Act 1847 s.61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 s.2; Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 s.7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 s.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit [IOS 222-09].

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued for offences of drunkenness[1] in Wales, by police force area, from 2004-07[2]

	Police force area	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
DA06	Dyfed-Powys	220	418	387	286
DB05	Gwent	151	231	298	212
DB07	North Wales	658	1,244	1,360	1,275
	South Wales	107	496	840	370
	Total	1,136	2,389	2,885	2,143

[1] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes: Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12; Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91; Consuming alcohol in a designated public place—Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, section 12.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence and Analysis Unit [IOS 222-09].

Annex A: Number of persons found guilty at all courts of offences of drunkenness[1] in Wales, by police force area, 2003-07[2,3]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Dyfed-Powys	1,145	1,135	1,018	999	999
Gwent	1,214	1,293	1,189	1,257	1,315
North Wales	1,673	1,579	1,408	1,435	1,425
South Wales	3,264	3,513	3,353	2,814	2,554
Total	7,296	7,520	6,968	6,505	6,293

Offence class 140, 141, 803

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985ss.1(4)& 1A(4), 2(2); Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s.12; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 s.174; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 s.9(4); Town Police Clauses Act 1847 s.61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s. 101 (1)(a)(b), (4) & (5); Licensing Act 1902 s.2; Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 s.7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis Unit [IOS 222-09].

Annex B: Number of persons cautioned for offences of drunkenness[1] in Wales, by police force area, 2003-07[2,3,4]

Police force area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Dyfed-Powys	94	107	111	109	119
Gwent	190	29	138	256	366
North Wales	204	168	116	83	81
South Wales	341	505	425	143	74
Total	829	809	790	591	640

Offence class 140, 141, 803

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s. 12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985ss.1(4)& 1A(4), 2(2); Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s.12; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964s.174; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 s.9(4); Town Police Clauses Act 1847 s.61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) & (5); Licensing Act 1902 s.2; Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 s.7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit [IOS 222-09].

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for offences related to drunkenness there have been in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(b)* Greater London in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [270935]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of drunkenness in Greater London, which includes the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is given in table 1.

A Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) may be given for certain offences of drunkenness. The number of persons issued with a PND for drunkenness in the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas, from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are given in table 2. The PND Scheme was implemented in all 43 police force areas in England and Wales in 2004.

Data relating to the number of persons found guilty and cautioned for offences of drunkenness can be found in annex A and B.

Information held centrally is not available at local authority area. Data have been given in the tables for the Metropolitan police force area which includes Greater London and in which the London borough of Bexley is located.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of drunkenness[1] in Greater London, 2003-07[2,3,4]

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Offence class	Number proceeded against	15,782	14,737	14,241	14,437	13,527
140						
141						
803						

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 ss.1(4) and 1A(4), 2(2); Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s.12; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 s.174; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 s.9(4); Town Police Clauses Act 1847 s.61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 s.2; Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 s.7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 s.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52.

[2] Includes the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminial Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 2: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued for offences of drunkenness[1] in Greater London, from 2004-07[2,3]

		2004	2005	2006	2007
DA06	Number of PNDs issued	5,469	4,429	4,405	4,369
DB05					
DB07					

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:

Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;

Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.

Consuming alcohol in a designated public place—Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, section 12.

[2] Includes the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Annex A: Number of persons found guilty at all courts of offences of drunkenness[1] in Greater London, 2003-07[2,3,4]

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Offence class	Number found guilty	13,964	13,257	12,896	13,300	12,560
140						
141						
803						

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 ss.1(4) and 1A(4), 2(2); Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s.12; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 s.174; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 s.9(4); Town Police Clauses Act 1847 s.61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 s.2; Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 s.7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52.

[2] Includes the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Annex B: Number of persons cautioned for offences of drunkenness[1] in Greater London, 2003-07[2,3,4,5]

		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Offence class	Number cautioned	915	545	335	389	533
140						
141						
803						

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 ss.1(4) and 1A(4), 2(2); Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s.12; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 s.174; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 s.9(4); Town Police Clauses Act 1847 s.61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 s.2; Similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 s.7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52.

[2] Includes the Metropolitan and City of London police force areas.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[4] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licences under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were granted in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008 for research on non-human primates that included water deprivation as a permissible motivational tool; to which species of non-human primates such licences related; and for what reasons such licences are granted. [275416]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, control of fluid intake is used to motivate monkeys so that they will perform extended sequences of behaviour in behavioural neuroscience experiments. The monkeys are trained to perform simple or complex tasks for which small amounts of a fluid, referred to as rewards or reinforcers, are used to motivate the animals and maintain behavioural or cognitive performance. The fluid control may involve limiting the time fluid is available, or may involve reducing the total amount fluid provided per day. Ultimately, thirst and the food reward for continuing the task, becomes a motivator for reliable performance.

The following table shows the number of licences granted from 2005 to date authorising fluid control procedure under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

	Number of licences granted authorising fluid control	*Non-human primate species*
2005	4	Macaques
2006	0	None
2007	3	Macaques
2008	2	1 Macaque, 1 Marmoset

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition her Department uses of household products in respect of the granting of animal testing licences; and if she will make a statement. [274952]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* There is no authoritative definition of the term 'household products' and it is not defined in any national or international legislation. However, in the context of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, regard is paid to the definition of finished household products as set out in the 2002 publication on "The Use of Animals in Testing Household Products" produced by the Boyd Group, a forum encompassing a wide rage of expertise and perspectives concerned with the use of animals in scientific procedures. All products that are primarily intended for use in the home fall within the sub-category of 'Substances used in the household' and would include such products as detergents and other laundry products, household cleaners, air-fresheners, toilet blocks, polishes, paper products such as infant nappies, paints, glues (and removers), other furnishing and DIY products and household pesticides. The sub-category applies to both finished household products and their ingredients, although in practice mainly the latter are tested.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animal testing licences were granted for the testing of household products in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [274953]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* Project licences are not granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 for the sole purpose of household product testing or the testing of their ingredients. Any such testing is conducted under project licences authorising the regulatory safety testing of a range of materials. The number of procedures conducted for the testing of household products and their ingredients has fallen significantly since 1997 and the number of licences used for this purpose in any particular year is consequently very low.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what species of animals have been used in the testing of household products under licences issued by her Department in the last five years; how many animals of each species have been so used; and if she will make a statement. [274954]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The number of adult animals used for the first time in scientific procedures on living animals started in Great Britain for toxicology or other safety/efficacy evaluation in relation to substances used in the household, in 2003-07 was:

2007: one rabbit (1)

2006: Nil (0)

2005: 21 mice, 90 rats (111)

2004: 95 mice, 65 rats, 20 guinea pigs, 12 rabbits, 80 'Any fish species' (272)

2003: 98 mice, 83 rats, 41 guinea pigs, 12 rabbits, (234).

The available information is published in Table 9a (previously 10a) in the Department's annual publication Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain, copies of which are available from the Library of the House and from the Department's website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/scientific1.html

Information relating to procedures started in 2008 is planned to be published in July 2009.

The justification for the testing of household products or their ingredients is the need for regulatory authorities to have sufficient information to assess the risks to which humans, animals, plants or the environment are exposed (and their efficacy if relevant), as required by national and international legislations, when these products or their ingredients are produced, transported or used.

Animal tests are authorised when the purpose of the test cannot be achieved by any other reasonably practicable method not entailing the use of protected animals. Account will be taken of physico-chemical properties of the test substance, computer modelling and structure-activity relationships, and results of in-vitro screening if appropriate which will inform the need and type of animal test needed.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on tackling antisocial behaviour. [276711]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have provided front-line staff including local authorities with a range of guidance on tackling antisocial behaviour. This has included:

Updated guidance on the use of existing tools and powers: May 2008;

Updated guidance on providing support to victims and witnesses of antisocial behaviour: May 2008;

Guidance on closure of premises associated with persistent disorder or nuisance: December 2008; and

A guide to reviewing antisocial behaviour orders given to young people: February 2009.

The ASB telephone ActionLine service and ASB website provide additional support to the public and staff engaged in tackling ASB. We also held regular events to keep practitioners up to speed with the latest practice in using the wide range of ASB tools and powers available to them.

Asylum

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are awaiting decisions as part of the legacy process; and how long on average those people have been waiting for a decision. [274163]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* As of 9 January the UK Border Agency had concluded 155,500 older asylum cases. The previous Home Secretary informed Parliament in July 2006 of

> "the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's case load of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records".

These include duplicate cases, and cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens, therefore it is not possible to provide an accurate assessment of how many cases are awaiting decisions. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency will update the Home Affairs Select Committee on case conclusion progress in the summer.

To obtain the information requested about average waiting times of legacy cases would involve a detailed examination of individual case records which would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time between an application for asylum and a final decision was in each of the last five years. [274608]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 May 2009]:* Data on conclusion performance by year of application are only available from the introduction of end-to-end processing of new asylum applications in April 2006. Prior to that date, performance targets were based on the length of time it took to reach an initial decision on an asylum application, rather than the length of time it took to conclude a case.

The PSA Delivery Agreement 3, Indicator 2 refers to the reduction in the time to conclusion of asylum application. The measure is to ensure a target percentage of cases should be resolved within six months as per the following:

35 per cent. by end of April 2007;

40 per cent. by end of December 2007;

60 per cent. by end of December 2008;

75 per cent. by end of December 2009;

90 per cent. by end of December 2011.

The method of reporting against the target is based on the performance of the specific monthly cohort of cases reaching six months. Hence all reporting is done against a six months timeframe. A cohort is specified as those new applications received between one and 31 of each month.

The conclusion measurement requires applications to be granted asylum or some form of leave to remain in the UK, allowed at appeal or removed within 182 days (six months) to be counted as concluded.

Performance against the targets has been published in National Statistics as follows:

38 per cent. of new applications received in September 2006 were concluded in six months by the end of by April 2007;

46 per cent. of new applications received in June 2007 were concluded in six months by the end of December 2007;

62 per cent. of new applications received in June 2008 were concluded in six months by the end of December 2008.

Published information is not available in relation to conclusion of applications in timescales other than six months.

Asylum: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on section 4 support in each of the last 10 years. [258002]

Mr. Woolas: The costs of this support have been as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2003-04	4
2004-05	17
2005-06	59
2006-07	71
2007-08	73

No separate records of expenditure under Section 4 were maintained prior to 2003-04.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments the UK Border Agency makes to a single asylum seeker whose application is being processed in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* France; and what accommodation is provided for asylum seekers whose cases are under consideration in (i) the UK and (ii) France. [274413]

Mr. Woolas: Not all asylum seekers in the United Kingdom are eligible for asylum support but those who do need support to avoid destitution may be provided with it under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 until their asylum claim is determined. Support takes the form of subsistence or accommodation or both, as necessary. Accommodation is provided on a "no-choice" basis in one of the designated areas in which there is a ready supply of accommodation.

Subsistence rates for single people per week are currently:

Single parent aged 18 or over—£42.16

Single person aged 25 or over—£42.16

Single person aged 18 or over, but under 25—£33.39

Single person aged 16 or over but under 18—£36.29 (paid to parent/guardian)

Single person under 16—£48.30 (Paid to parent/guardian)

A woman who is pregnant or who has children under the age of three, is entitled to extra payments.

The UK Border Agency does not make payments to support asylum seekers in France.

British Nationality

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1211W, on British nationality, when she will place in the Library a copy of the letter and attachments; what the reasons are for the time taken to place the letter in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [259199]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* There has been a delay in depositing the letter due to an administrative oversight. It will now be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Crime: Motor Vehicles

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to tackle car cloning in London. [272717]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Metropolitan police service has a well established and successful Stolen Vehicle Unit, and it has had considerable success working with other partners to tackle vehicle crime, including cloning, in London.

The Home Office is also committed to supporting the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS), which has a national role in tackling vehicle crime, including sharing intelligence with forces. It works closely with regionally based police colleagues, including the Metropolitan police, in relation to vehicle crime.

The efforts that we have made in partnership with police and colleagues in the vehicle insurance, vehicle manufacturing and other areas has proved successful.

From 1997 to 2007-08 we have seen a reduction of 66 per cent. in vehicle crime.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce the level of vehicle crime in Coventry in the last 12 months. [276689]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to ensuring that the response to motor vehicle crime is as effective as possible.

The Home Office is committed to supporting the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS), based at Ryton on Dunsmore, which has a national role in tackling vehicle crime, including sharing intelligence with forces. It works closely with regionally-based police colleagues in all 43 forces in England and Wales and has strong relationships with other key partners including the Serious Organised Crime Agency and HM Revenue and Customs, as well as partners in the private sector, in relation to vehicle crime.

There are also local initiatives in Coventry to tackle vehicle crime such as: vehicle decoy operations targeted in crime hot spots; a campaign to target the theft of satellite navigation systems, including covert sting operations and publicity; police community support officers checking vehicles with property left on show and providing advice to shoppers and those working in the city centre; advice to businesses on increasing security on their premises (e.g. CCTV and additional patrols); vouchers for vehicle crook locks distributed to the owners of older vehicles which do not benefit from security within their design; and offender management schemes that target known prolific offenders.

The efforts that we have made in partnership with police and colleagues in the vehicle insurance, vehicle manufacturing and other areas, has proved successful. From 1997 to 2007-08 we have seen a reduction of 66 per cent. in vehicle crime.

Crime: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes *(a)* were committed and *(b)* resulted in convictions in North Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [277063]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested as it is not possible to track individual offences through to their outcome at court. The available information relates to the number of offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire in each financial year. Convictions data are based on the number of offenders and have been provided by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Table 1 gives the number of offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire and table 2 provides data on the number of offenders convicted.

The data in table 2 are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in North Yorkshire

	Number
2003-04	71,473
2004-05	61,615
2005-06	58,850
2006-07	54,526
2007-08	50,265

Table 2: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all offences in North Yorkshire police force area, 2003-07[1,2]

	Number
2003	13,746
2004	15,010

Table 2: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for all offences in North Yorkshire police force area, 2003-07[1,2]

	Number
2005	12,841
2006	14,629
2007	15,049

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Crime: Statistics

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data on crime at lower layer super output area level her Department collects. [275486]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office's British crime survey (BCS) is a representative survey of households resident in England and Wales designed to collect information on crimes experienced in the last year. The BCS is an address-based sample but information collected is not reported below police force area level as the sample is too small to provide reliable estimates at lower geographical levels.

To protect the confidentiality of respondents personal details, such as address and postcode, are not supplied to the Home Office by the survey contractor.

The Home Office also collects information on crimes recorded by the police.

Experimental statistics based on a special collection from some police forces has been published at middle super output area level. The most recent data currently published are for 2005-06 and can be found on the Neighbourhood Statistics website at:

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

In future, the Home Office data hub will receive individual crime records from police forces in England and Wales. The system is currently being tested and test data extracts have been received from 28 forces. It is planned that the system will be fully operational by the end of the financial year 2010-11. Assessments of the quality of these data will need to be made but the current intention is to publish data at middle super output area level where possible, subject to quality issues and adherence to protocols for official statistics.

Crimes of Violence: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce the level of violent crime in Coventry in the last 12 months. [276691]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government nationally have been over the last 12 months implementing a wide ranging programme as set out in the Tackling Violence Action Plan published in February 2008. We are reviewing and refreshing that plan particularly to focus on the key priorities of serious youth violence and violence against women.

Examples of steps taken in Coventry include:

Coventry was allocated £335,669 basic command unit funding for 2008-09 which is to help deliver crime and disorder reduction locally, promote partnership working, and to assist in the delivery of the objectives set out in the Government's Public Service Agreements for 2008 to 2011.

Coventry Community Safety Partnership received funding of £81,540 to support a tackling violent crime programme designed to reduce violent crime and fear of crime and increase public confidence. A range of tactical interventions were deployed over the Christmas 2008 period, which achieved a 4.9 per cent. reduction in overall crime, against an anticipated 2 per cent. reduction target.

Coventry has been designated as an alcohol priority area and is receiving funding from the Home Office for enforcement and a communications campaign.

Work is also ongoing to strengthen Coventry's multi-agency approach to licensing enforcement.

Coventry's health services produce fortnightly data which are then sent to the police and other partners through the partnerships' Active Intelligence Mapping arrangements, which enables regular and appropriate deployment of operational resources.

Funding has been provided to assist with the expansion and development of the Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, set up to provide services to women (and their children) who have suffered from rape and sexual abuse.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Health and *(b)* the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on their Departments' contributions to (i) her Department's consultation on Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls and (ii) her Department's forthcoming national strategy on Violence Against Women and Girls. [275890]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Secretary has had regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues about Government action on VAWG and has written to the Ministerial Committee on Domestic Affairs twice regarding the cross-Government consultation on ending violence against women and girls.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private contractors have been granted access to personal data held by her Department in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [241867]

Mr. Woolas: The information required is not held centrally, therefore we are unable to provide an answer because of the disproportionate cost threshold.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff in her Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274306]

Jacqui Smith: The number of staff dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total each year within Home Office HQ, the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Dismissals in Home Office HQ, IPS and CRB[1]

Year[2]	*Dismissals for under-performance*	*Total dismissals*
1999-2000	0	Less than five
2000-01	0	14
2001-02	0	34
2002-03	0	37
2003-04	0	29
2004-05	0	29
2005-06	Less than five	41
2006-07	0	38
2007-08	Less than five	45
2008-09	Less than five	49

[1] The Criminal Records Bureau did not begin operations until March 2002.

[2] Information prior to 2005-06 is not held centrally within Home Office HQ and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Note:

Where fewer than five members of staff were dismissed further information has been withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

The number of staff dismissed within the UK Border Agency for *(a)* inefficiency and *(b)* in total each year is shown in table 2

Table 2: Dismissals in UKBA[1]

Year[2]	*Dismissals for inefficiency*[3]	*Total dismissals*
2005-06	37	69
2006-07	28	68
2007-08	50	100
2008-09	47	93

[1] Figures exclude staff within UK Visas (previously FCO) and HMRC detection staff who have now transferred to UKBA.

[2] Information prior to 2005-06 is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

[3] Dismissals made under the broad category of inefficiency include dismissals made under poor performance and attendance management procedure;

UKBA figures contained in the first column of table 2 include all staff dismissed under the broad category of inefficiency, which includes dismissal for under-performance and dismissal under attendance management procedures. A further breakdown of those dismissals into those dismissed for under-performance could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

UKBA figures exclude staff in UK Visas (previously under the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and HM Revenue and Customs Detection staff who have now transferred to UKBA. These staff will be added to UKBA HR systems during 2009-10 as part of an ongoing improvement programme.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274503]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is set out in the table.

	Conference costs (£)
2004-05	5,189,640
2005-06	10,594,000
2006-07	9,325,652
2007-08	4,020,987
2008-09	5,844,000

The cost of banqueting services cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on conference services is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Opinion Polls

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which subjects her Department has commissioned opinion polling in each of the last two years; and at what cost. [274072]

Mr. Woolas: During the last three financial years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) the Home Office (excluding Executive Agencies) has commissioned public opinion polling on attitudes, experiences and awareness of a broad range of crime, policing, immigration, asylum and counter-terrorism issues. Details and cost for each financial year are shown in the following table.

Details and cost for each financial year[1] are shown in table 1.

Table 1

Financial year	*Opinion polling subject areas*	*Cost (excluding VAT (£)*
2006-07	Omnibus polling on attitudes, experiences and awareness of a broad range of crime, policing, immigration and asylum issues.	60,575
2007-08	Omnibus polling on attitudes, experiences and awareness of a broad range of crime, policing, immigration and asylum issues.	91,325
2008-09	Omnibus polling on attitudes, experiences and awareness of a broad range of crime, policing, immigration and asylum, counter-terrorism and security issues	212,830

[1] These costs supersede those provided in a previous parliamentary question, where costs years 2006-07 and 2007-08 appeared incorrectly due to an administrative error.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which companies her Department purchased goods and services at a cost of more than £1 million in 2008-09; and how much was spent in respect of each company. [269693]

Mr. Woolas: For the period April to December 2008, the Home Office, which includes the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau spent more than £1 million with 73 suppliers from our total supplier list. The actual spend by each supplier is commercially sensitive and restricted and this detail cannot be provided.

The companies from which the Department with its agencies purchased goods and services to a value greater than £1 million were as follows:

Home Office

3M Co.
Alpine Resourcing Ltd.
Angel Group Ltd.
ASE Consulting Ltd.
Atkins (WS) plc.
Atos Origin
Beachcroft Wansboroughs
British Telecommunications AS
Cable and Wireless
Capita Business Services Ltd.
Capita Resourcing Ltd.
Carlson Wagonlit Travel
Computer People Ltd.
Computercenter HQ
Cozart Ltd.
Cripps Harries Hall LLP
Deloitte and Touche USA LLP
Deloitte MCS Ltd.
Detica Group plc.
Drivers Jonas Services Co.
DTZ Holdings plc.
Eamus Cork Solutions
EDF Electricite De France SA
Elan Computing Ltd.
Electra Partners Group Ltd.
Equifax plc.
Ernst and Young LLP
Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP
First Option Hotel Reservation
Fujitsu Services (Finance) Ltd.
Group 4 Securicor plc.
Harry Weeks Executive Travel
Hays Executive
Interquest Group plc.
Iron Mountain Incorporated
KPMG N.V.
Logicacmg plc.
Manpower Inc.
Mapeley Abi Provider Ltd.
Methods Holdings Ltd.
MM Teleperformance
Morse plc.
MPS Group, Inc.
Ncipher Corporation Ltd.
PA Consulting Group
PA Holdings Ltd.
Parity Group plc.
Parity Resources
Prestige Network Ltd.
Prudential Property Investment
Qinetiq Group plc.
R R Donnelley Print and Media
Raytheon Co.
Remploy Ltd.
Safran
Savvis, Inc.
Secure Mail Services Ltd.
Security Printing Systems Ltd.
Siemens AG
Siemens Business Services Ltd.
Sodexho Alliance SA
Specialist Computer Holdings plc.
Spring Technology
Tac Tps Ltd.
Thales
The Geo Group UK Ltd.
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.
Tribal Group plc.
VCCP Ltd.
Vedior N.V.
WH 101 Old Hall Street Ltd.
Workman and Partner
WPP Group plc.

Departmental Recruitment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* UK citizens born in the UK, *(b)* UK citizens born abroad and *(c)* foreign nationals recruited to her Department and its agencies are subject to (i) UK and (ii) overseas criminal record checks; and if she will make a statement. [271978]

Jacqui Smith: All staff recruited to the Home Office and its agencies (the UK Border Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau) undergo either pre-employment checks or national security vetting. These all include a check of UK criminal records.

Those who require security clearance for a particular post may be asked to provide a police certificate from a foreign country.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects her Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if she will make a statement. [275980]

Mr. Woolas: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication 'Public Bodies'. Copies of Public Bodies 2008 are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on Home Office public bodies is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/public-bodies-list-08

Information about reviews commissioned in the last five years is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days sick leave were taken on average by staff of *(a)* the UK Border Agency and *(b)* the Identity and Passport Service in 2008. [273739]

Mr. Woolas: Average number of days of sick leave taken by a member of staff in 2008 are as follows:

UKBA: 10.41 days per full-time employee

IPS: 10.50 days per full-time employee

The answer relates to paid sick leave only.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274218]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been deported to *(a)* Pakistan, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* India in each of the last five years; and how many such persons were deported on the grounds of national security; [271363]

(2) how many people were deported to Pakistan on each ground for deportation in 2008. [271364]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is committed to ensuring that we remove those foreign nationals who pose a risk of harm to our society. It has been made clear that all those who commit crimes within the United Kingdom and meet the published criteria will be considered for deportation action.

Over the past five years the UK Border Agency has deported or removed over 15,000 foreign criminals from the UK, including a record 5,395 in 2008. A detailed breakdown of where those individuals were removed to is not collated centrally and can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

During the same period, nine people have been deported on grounds of national security. None of that group was deported to one of the three countries named.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign criminals, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. She will continue to write to the Committee as required.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners repatriated to their country of origin under the reintegration scheme have since been returned to the UK following reconviction. [276232]

Mr. Woolas: Those foreign national prisoners who are removed under the Facilitated Returns Scheme are issued with an exclusion order preventing them from re-entering the UK. Those who are subject to a deportation order and have not benefited from the scheme are also prevented from re-entering the UK. There is no basis upon which a foreign government may return one of their nationals to the UK if that individual re-offends in their country.

The UK Border Agency deported or removed a record 5,400 foreign national prisoners in 2008, exceeding the Government set target. As confirmed in its 2008-09 Business Plan the Agency will continue to deport or remove even more.

Deportation: Private Sector

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department has with private contractors for escorted deportations. [276558]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has three contracts with private suppliers to escort individuals removed from the United Kingdom.

Detention Centres: Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of providing internet access to inmates of all immigration removal centres; and when she expects this work to be completed. [273272]

Jacqui Smith: Internet access is available to individuals detained at the eight Immigration Removal Centres which are operated by private sector contractors. Use of the internet is supervised by on-site staff, supported by software-based technology to prevent access to certain inappropriate sites.

The cost of internet access has been agreed with individual contractors operating each immigration removal centre. This information is commercially confidential and is not therefore available to be disclosed publicly.

DNA: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals of each nationality were listed on the national DNA database on 1 April 2009. [271356]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) stores the absolute minimum amount of personal data, and does not store the nationality or the home addresses of subject profiles. Therefore we are unable to determine how many foreign nationals are on the NDNAD.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 17, *(c)* 18 to 20 and *(d)* over 20 years old in each ethnic appearance category were registered on the national DNA database in each of the last five years; and how many of these had no conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the police national computer. [271981]

Jacqui Smith: The following tables show how many profiles were added to the NDNAD by police forces in England and Wales in each of the last five years, broken down by age and ethnic appearance. The age groups refer to an individual's age on the date that their profile was loaded to the NDNAD, not their current age. The ethnic appearance categories refer to the ethnic appearance recorded by the police officer who took the sample. "Unknown" means that no age/ethnic appearance was recorded by the officer who took the sample.

In accordance with my announcement on 16 December 2008, all profiles of under 10s have now been deleted from the NDNAD.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because some profiles are replicates—i.e. more than one profile is held for one individual. This may occur if, for example, an individual gives different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests. The most recent estimate of the replication rate on the NDNAD is 13.5 per cent.

It is not possible to break the information in the tables down further into the number of people in each category who had no conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC). The NDNAD does not hold information on whether an individual has a conviction.

Breakdown of profiles added to the NDNAD by England and Wales police forces in each of the last five years, broken down by age and ethnic appearance

2004-05

	Unknown	*Asian*	*Black*	*Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian*	*Middle Eastern*	*White North European*	*White South European*
Under 10	9	0	1	0	0	0	0
10 to 17	5,367	4,448	8,177	296	389	93,229	1,429
18 to 20	3,854	3,544	3,997	344	649	46,246	904
Over 20	31,781	17,332	22,513	2,679	3,185	223,952	5,995
Unknown	0	2	5	0	4	6	0
Total	41,011	25,326	34,693	3,319	4,227	363,433	8,328

2005-06

	Unknown	*Asian*	*Black*	*Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian*	*Middle Eastern*	*White North European*	*White South European*
Under 10	5	0	2	0	0	12	0
10 to 17	8,736	5,830	11,392	375	589	116,343	1,769
18 to 20	6,845	4,684	6,490	431	671	57,912	1,241
Over 20	47,318	24,395	32,926	4,076	4,071	281,887	7,791
Unknown	10	22	6	1	11	9	7
Total	62,914	34,931	50,816	4,883	5,342	456,163	10,808

2006-07

	Unknown	*Asian*	*Black*	*Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian*	*Middle Eastern*	*White North European*	*White South European*
Under 10	8	0	2	0	0	22	0
10 to 17	9,754	6,982	12,951	423	651	116,928	2,091
18 to 20	6,510	5,060	7,038	510	616	59,576	1,343
Over 20	46,609	30,377	39,629	4,871	4,531	302,164	9,060
Unknown	7	13	2	0	9	15	5
Total	62,888	42,432	59,622	5,804	5,807	478,705	12,499

2007-08

	Unknown	*Asian*	*Black*	*Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian*	*Middle Eastern*	*White North European*	*White South European*
Under 10	8	0	2	0	0	21	2
10 to 17	5,267	6,132	9,441	475	744	98,179	1,695
18 to 20	3,173	4,091	4,276	459	560	51,004	1,161
Over 20	22,102	27,369	27,367	4,723	3,798	261,987	7,821
Unknown	8	18	4	3	13	11	7
Total	30,558	37,610	41,090	5,660	5,115	411,202	10,686

2008-09

	Unknown	*Asian*	*Black*	*Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian*	*Middle Eastern*	*White North European*	*White South European*
Under 10	5	6	8	0	1	36	0
10 to 17	2,803	6,079	9,254	486	1,072	79,862	1,888
18 to 20	1,646	4,094	4,520	532	718	47,890	1,429
Over 20	10,677	29,625	30,080	5,299	4,717	262,543	10,360

	2008-09						
	Unknown	*Asian*	*Black*	*Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian*	*Middle Eastern*	*White North European*	*White South European*
Unknown	10	40	5	3	24	19	3
Total	15,141	39,844	43,867	6,320	6,532	390,350	13,680

Domestic Violence: Immigrants

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the quality of provision of support and assistance given by local authorities to women with no recourse to public funds who have been victims of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* sexual violence. [271599]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We would advise that the provision of local services for women who have no recourse to public funds and have been victims of domestic and sexual violence, must be determined locally, based on local need and priorities.

The Home office and UK Border Agency will shortly be launching a national scheme to assist victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds if their application for indefinite leave to remain under the domestic violence rule is successful.

Domestic Violence: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure sustainable funding in the future for voluntary organisations working to assist women subject to domestic violence. [277492]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office is part of a cross-Government working group led by the Government Equalities Office. The aim of this group is to develop a long-term sustainable cross-Government engagement strategy with the Violence Against Women (VAW) third sector. The work of this Group is situated quite clearly within the context of the Home Office's consultation and following strategy on VAW.

Driving Offences: Licensing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many charges for unlicensed vehicle offences have been brought based on evidence from speed cameras in each year since 1997. [276459]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on court proceedings for all motoring offences are given in Chapter 5, Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, 2007, available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/documents/crim-stats-2007-tag.pdf

Data are not collected centrally on charges.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the supply of Class B drugs. [276486]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The illegal supply of Class B drugs is a serious matter. Trafficking in controlled drugs of all classes needs to be tackled robustly in order to reduce the harm drugs cause to communities and the organised criminality associated with their supply.

The Government's strategy is to bear down on all points in the drugs supply chain in order to disrupt criminal gangs, stifle drug supply and reduce the harm caused to communities in the UK. Increasing quantities of drugs are being seized and organised crime groups and dealers disrupted.

The latest figures published show that in 2007-08, there were 8,671 seizures of Class B drugs by the police and HMRC in England and Wales, up 4 per cent. from the 8,304 seizures the previous year. The majority of the Class B seizures in 2007-08 were amphetamines, with 8,412 in 2007-08, an increase of 5 per cent. from the previous year.

It is right that the police should prioritise action to tackle the offences which cause the most harm. For this reason, operational activity tends to focus on Class A drugs, particularly the supply of heroin and cocaine. Where Class B drugs pose a threat within a community, these will become a focus of police activity.

Drugs: Misuse

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial interests *(a)* the Chairman and *(b)* each member of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and its technical committee have declared. [276006]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) will publish a register of interests of all council members on their website the week commencing 1 June. The register will include the interests of the chairman.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the number of people who have used khat in each of the last 10 years. [276251]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No annual estimates are currently made of the number of people who have used khat.

The Home Office is planning to add questions to the British Crime Survey (BCS) from October 2009 to ask respondents about self-reported use of khat ever, in the last year and in the last month.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of research commissioned by her Department on the individual and social effects of the use of khat in the UK. [276288]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In March 2005, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) was asked by the Home Office to assess the extent of the harm posed by khat use in the UK based on the evidence available at that time. The ACMD recommended khat not be controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act but it continues to monitor the situation in relation to khat through its technical committee.

The Government's 2008 Drug Strategy Action Plan set out the intention to consider further the social harms created by khat use and to improve our understanding of the needs of khat users and their families.

In light of the commitments, the Home Office has commissioned a research project to examine the social harms associated with khat use and to explore the level and availability of treatment service provision for khat users and their families and will be considering the issue of classification.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions officials of her Department have had with representatives of community organisations on the use of khat in the UK. [276289]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Representatives of communities in which khat is used have met both the Home Secretary and other Home Office Ministers, with officials present. Pursuant to the commitment in the Government's 2008 Drug Strategy Action, research that has been commissioned by the Home Office to examine the social harms associated with khat use will comprise a number of focus groups with members of the Somali, Yemeni, and Ethiopian communities. These groups will explore perceptions of the social harms associated with khat use.

Entry Clearances

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for an EEA Permanent Residence Card were undetermined at the latest date for which figures are available. [266349]

Mr. Woolas: As of 6 May 2009 the number of applications for an EEA Permanent Residence Card which were undetermined was 6,290.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken is between the receipt of an application for an EEA Permanent Residence Card and the issuing of such a card to successful applicants in the latest period for which information is available. [266350]

Mr. Woolas: Based on the applications decided over the preceding 12 month period, the average time elapsed from receipt of an application for an EEA Permanent Residence Card and the issuing of such a card to successful applicants was eight months.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average processing time is for applications to the UK Border Agency for *(a)* registration certificates to EEA nationals and *(b)* residence cards to non-EEA family members of EEA residents; and if she will make a statement. [266504]

Mr. Woolas: Based on the applications decided over the preceding 12 month period, as of 6 May 2009 the average time taken by the UK Border Agency to issue Registration Certificates to EEA nationals was four months. The average time taken to issue Residence Cards to non-EEA family members of EEA residents was eight months.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which individuals have been prohibited from entering the United Kingdom since June 2007; what the reasons for the prohibitions applied were; and if she will make a statement. [274762]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows:

(a) A non-British national can be excluded (prohibited) from entering the UK if their presence here is not considered to be conducive to the public good. On 28 October 2008, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary introduced a presumption that it would be in the public interest to disclose the names of individuals excluded from the UK on grounds of unacceptable behaviour from that date onwards. On 5 May 2009, the UK Border Agency published a list of 16 individuals who have been excluded since last October 2008. Further names will be published on a regular basis where it is considered to be in the public interest to do so.

(b) Since June 2007 the organisations known as Jammat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh and Tehrik Nefaz-e Shari'at Muhammadi have been added to the list of those proscribed by Order under the Terrorism Act 2000. In addition, the entry on the proscribed list for the Hizballah External Security Organisation was substituted in July 2008 by the following entry:

> "The military wing of Hizballah, including the Jihad Council and all units reporting to it (including the Hizballah External Security Organisation)".

Reasons for the proscriptions are provided on the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism website at the following address:

http://security.homeoffice.gov.uk/legislation/current legislation/terrorismact2000/proscribedgroups

Proscription creates a number of criminal offences relating to membership and support of the organisations concerned. Additionally, it is the policy of the UK Border Agency that individuals who are members of proscribed organisations should be excluded from entering the UK.

Entry Clearances: Biometrics

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which British embassies in Africa have the ability to collect biometric data. [273742]

Mr. Woolas: A total of 31 UK diplomatic missions and UK visa application centres in Africa have the ability to collect biometric data. They are located in the countries listed as follows. Where there is more than one biometric collection point, the number is shown in brackets.

Algeria
Angola
Botswana
Cameroon

Congo
Egypt (2)
Ethiopia
Gambia
Kenya
Libya
Malawi
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria (4)
Rwanda
South Africa (4)
Sudan
Tunisia
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe.

Fines

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of fines issued in each police force area under *(a)* fixed penalty notices and *(b)* penalty notices for disorder have been collected in each year since 1997-98. [266156]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* Information on the outcomes (including payment rates) of fixed penalty notices for motoring offences in 2006 and 2007 (latest available) are provided in tables 1 and 2 placed in the House Library.

Information for the years 1997 to 2005 can be found in the annual Home Office publication 'Offences relating to motor vehicles, England and Wales, Supplementary tables'—Tables 21(a) and 21(b) refer. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 and over in each police force area in England and Wales which were paid within the 21 day Suspended Enforcement Period (SEP) and registered as fines for non-payment, by type of offence from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in tables 3 to 6 placed in the House Library. 21 days is the minimum period before which forces can register a fine against the recipient for not responding to a notice, so forces can accept payments after the SEP for administrative purposes. It is not possible to identify the payment rate of fines arising from unpaid PNDs separately from other court-imposed fines. However, the latest enforcement rate for all fines including those from unpaid PNDs, is 85.2 per cent. for the period April to December 2008.

PNDs were implemented in all 43 forces in England and Wales in 2004.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Fraud: Banks

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission an inquiry into allegations of fraud committed by banks against their customers. [265684]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 23 March 2009]:* The investigation of alleged criminal offences is an operational matter for which the police are responsible. Anyone who has evidence of a fraud being committed should therefore report the matter to the police without delay.

The Government have recently improved the enforcement capacity for fraud by allocating extra funding to the City of London police to enable that force to take on the most serious and complex fraud cases across England and Wales. The force will also provide assistance and training for local forces investigating complex fraud cases.

Fraud: Credit Cards

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce the level of credit card fraud in Coventry in the last 12 months. [276689]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government take all fraud seriously wherever it is perpetrated, which is why we have allocated £29 million in new funding over three years to implement the National Fraud Programme which includes establishing a National Fraud Authority; a National Fraud Reporting Centre and a National Lead Force for investigating serious and complex fraud. The National Fraud Authority which brings together Government, law enforcement and industry representatives, became operational in October last year and on 19 March published the first National Fraud Strategy which will benefit all areas of the country. The National Fraud Reporting Centre will equip law enforcement agencies with a powerful intelligence tool, enabling the police to collate information from fraud cases across the country, leading to better intelligence and hence better targeted operations, as well as better prevention advice for businesses and the public. In its rote as national lead force, City of London Police will tackle serious and complex fraud wherever it occurs and assist other police forces by offering training and best practice advice.

On plastic card fraud specifically, we work closely with the card industry to encourage wider adoption by retailers and cardholders of new anti fraud initiatives and were, for example, pleased to support the industry's Be Card Smart public education campaign last Christmas.

Heroin

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of heroin apprehended in the UK was of *(a)* South American and *(b)* Afghanistani and Pakistani origin in each of the last three years. [276253]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency estimates that over 90 per cent. of the heroin which reaches the UK is derived from Afghan opium. The remainder is from areas including south east Asia. There is little evidence of heroin of south American origin reaching the UK market.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of heroin apprehended in the UK in each of the last three years which had been transported through *(a)* Somalia and *(b)* other African countries. [276254]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Most heroin that reaches the UK is routed overland from Afghanistan to Europe or from Pakistan directly to the UK. There is little evidence of heroin, destined for UK markets, being transported through Somalia or other African countries.

Hezbollah

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will prevent the Hezbollah spokesperson Ibrahim Moussawi from entering the United Kingdom. [263410]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Mr. Moussawi was refused a visa on the grounds that his presence in the UK would not be conducive to the public good, in particular because it would increase tension between the Jewish and Muslim communities.

Hotels

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies spent on hotel and other similar privately provided accommodation (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad in 2008-09. [269690]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is set out in the table. It covers the hotel accommodation of around 25,300 staff.

Expenditure in accommodation

£000

	Home Office, including UK Borders Agency	*Identity and Passport Service*	*Criminal Records Bureau*
UK	3,792	1,041	n/a
Overseas	1,902	12	n/a
Total	5,694	1,053	210

Criminal Records Bureau cannot analyse UK or Overseas expenditure, without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department expects all official travel, and the associated accommodation, to be undertaken by the most efficient and economic means available, taking into account the cost of travel and subsistence, savings in official time, management benefit, and the needs of staff with disabilities. This is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code.

Identity Cards: Airports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the union Prospect on the decision to introduce compulsory identity cards for airside workers in the aviation sector. [275793]

Mr. Woolas: The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) met with union representatives, led by the TUC and including Prospect, to discuss identity cards for airside workers on 10 September 2008.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of airside workers at each airport who will be required to carry identity cards once the pilot schemes are implemented nationally. [275794]

Mr. Woolas: We have agreed with Manchester and London City airports that the initial requirement to obtain an identity card will be placed on new airside workers only. Therefore the number of identity cards issued will depend on the levels of recruitment taking place at the airport for new airside employees.

The wider UK population will have the opportunity to apply for identity cards from 2011-12 when we start to enrol British citizens at high volumes, offering a choice of receiving a separate identity card, passport or both. Currently, over 5 million passports are issued per year.

The Identity Cards Act 2006 specifically prohibits making the carrying of an identity card compulsory.

Identity Cards: Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the functions will be of local authorities in the trials of identity cards in beacon areas. [271230]

Mr. Woolas: As announced on 6 May 2009, residents of Greater Manchester (the city's 10 boroughs) will be the first British citizens to be able to apply for a voluntary ID card from autumn 2009.

The precise details of the role that local authorities might play in the future rollout of ID cards in any chosen geographical location have yet to be determined, bearing in mind the need to make use of existing assets and infrastructure, where appropriate, to deliver the National Identity Service.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to remove illegal immigrants from the UK. [275896]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The UK Border Agency is continuing in its large-scale modernisation programme to improve the effectiveness of its border and immigration control. These include increasing the security of our borders through the e-Borders system; starting the roll-out of local immigration teams; and introducing a new system of civil penalties for those employing illegal migrant workers—changes which are designed to make the UK harder to enter illegally, harder to stay in illegally, and less attractive to potential illegal migrants in the first place.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK, on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

In 2008, these published statistics show that 66,275 people were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, an increase of 5 per cent. from 2007 (63,365). In addition, the UK Border Agency deported nearly 5,400 foreign criminals, a record performance.

This is evidence that the UK Border Agency is succeeding in its commitment to removing individuals with no right to be here—with a focus on targeting the most harmful first.

Immigration

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to expedite the determination of immigration decisions. [264934]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 March 2009]:* The UK Border Agency is committed to delivering an efficient service for all customers and claimants.

In terms of economic and family migration, the principal means by which the UK Border Agency is working to speed up the determination of immigration decisions is through the introduction of the points based system for all those applying to work or study in the UK.

The tiers relating to highly skilled migrants, skilled migrants and temporary workers are already operational, having been introduced in 2008. Tier 4, which applies to students, was introduced on 31 March 2009.

In other economic and family migration categories there are performance improvement plans in place to speed up case processing times.

For asylum cases, the UK Border agency has published the milestones for the conclusion of cases it intends to fulfil on route to the ultimate objective of concluding 90 per cent. of cases within six months by December 2011. Most recently, UKBA successfully achieved the milestone of concluding 60 per cent. of cases in six months by the end of December 2008.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what occupations in her Department's most recent shortage occupation lists relate to job titles in the software industry. [276188]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's latest shortage occupation list, which was announced on 13 May, contains roles within visual effects and 2D/3D animation for film, television or video games, R and D software and software engineer.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding applications for indefinite leave to remain are being processed by the UK Border Agency. [276371]

Mr. Woolas: There were 43,090 outstanding applications for indefinite leave to remain being processed by the UK Border Agency as at 12:30 pm on 18 May 2009.

Notes:

1. Data relate to lead applicants only.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Source:

UKBA Case Information Database

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual representations *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have received from members of the public regarding their personal immigration case in each of the last six months. [276375]

Mr. Woolas: Information regarding letters received from members of the public to Ministers regarding personal immigration cases is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 285W, on local immigration teams, where each of the nine operational teams is based. [276565]

Mr. Woolas: A further 14 local immigration teams (LITs) have become operational since the previous answer was given, with the total now standing at 23. These are based in the following areas:

1. Bedfordshire and West Northamptonshire
2. Berkshire
3. Brent
4. Buckinghamshire
5. Cambridgeshire and East Northamptonshire
6. Ealing
7. East Midlands
8. Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea
9. Hampshire and Isle of Wight
10. Harrow
11. Hillingdon
12. Hounslow
13. Kent
14. Merseyside
15. Norfolk
16. Northumbria
17. Oxfordshire
18. Richmond and Kingston
19. Salford and Central Manchester
20. Somerset
21. South Wales
22. Staffordshire
23. Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway and Central Scotland.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition her Department uses of a legacy case in respect of the work of the UK Border Agency. [276818]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 May 2009]:* Legacy cases are all unresolved asylum cases that were lodged with the UK Border Agency before March 2007 that are not being processed by the Regional Asylum Teams.

Immigration Controls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to develop joint threat assessment mechanisms between police forces and the UK Border Agency to underpin operational work at the UK border; and what timetable has been established for the work. [273026]

Jacqui Smith: Following on from the memorandum of understanding which was signed in 2008, the UK Border Agency and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) are continuing to work closely together to enhance their relationship at the UK border. UKBA have senior officials in place at ports of entry to facilitate liaison with the police and other agencies. This collaboration is designed to increase opportunities for working together, including the capacity for joint threat assessments.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation was undertaken on the change to Tier One of the immigration points-based system requiring applicants to hold a Masters degree rather than a Bachelors degree. [276310]

Jacqui Smith: The changes to the requirements for Tier 1 were discussed widely across Government Departments.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effect on medical training of the recent change to Tier One immigration rules for highly skilled migrants; and if she will make a statement. [276311]

Jacqui Smith: I and my Cabinet colleagues have regular discussions about changes to the immigration system. Officials continue to work together to ensure that changes to the immigration system do not have an adverse impact on this important sector.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sponsors for Tier 2 of the points-based immigration system are classified as *(a)* category A and *(b)* category B. [276560]

Mr. Woolas: There are 9,168 registered Tier 2 sponsors, of which 8,841 are rated as category A and 327 as category B.

Immigration: Children

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the detention of children subject to immigration control. [276127]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency would always prefer that those whose applications to stay in the United Kingdom have failed, leave the country voluntarily. This is particularly so of families with children. However, detention is regrettable where individuals fail to leave and where removal therefore has to be enforced.

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's response is to the findings of the Children's Commissioner's report The Arrest and Detention of Children Subject to Immigration Control. [276128]

Mr. Woolas: The Children's Commissioner for England published his report on 27 April. The United Kingdom Border Agency is now considering his recommendations carefully and will respond to the commissioner within two months of publication.

Immigration: Detainees

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many adults currently held in immigration removal centres in the UK have been held there for *(a)* less than six, *(b)* between six and 12, *(c)* 12 to 24 and *(d)* longer than 24 months. [272194]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 May 2009]:* The following table shows the number of adults detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at the end of December 2008 by length of detention.

Persons recorded as being in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention as at 27 December 2008[1,2]

		Number of persons	
		Of whom:	
Length of detention[3]	*Total detainees*	*Adults*	*Children[4]*
Less than 6 months	[5]1,800	[5]1,760	40
6 months to less than 12 months	[5]295	[5]295	—
12 months to less than 24 months	[5]135	[5]135	—
24 months or more	[5]15	[5]15	—
Grand total	2,250	2,210	40

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.
[2] Figures include dependants.
[3] Relates to most recent period of sole detention.
[4] People recorded as being under 18 on 27 December 2008. These figures will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.
[5] Figures are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

National Statistics on how many detainees, including children, are detained on a quarterly snapshot basis by length of detention is available in table 11 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq408.pdf

and from the Library of the House.

Immigration: EU Nationals

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for European Economic Area residence cards were received by the UK Border Agency in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many such applications resulted in a residence card being issued within six months. [274814]

Mr. Woolas: Based on the period 12 May 2008 to 12 May 2009, UKBA received a total of 26,930 EEA residence card applications. The number of issues during this period was 1,550. Of these 740 were issued within six months.

Please note these figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Immigration: Families

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average processing time for residence card applications for family members of EEA nationals. [267839]

Mr. Woolas: Based on the applications decided over the preceding 12 month period, the average processing time of applications for residence cards for family members of EEA nationals was eight months.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for residence cards for family members of EEA nationals took longer than six months to process in each of the last three years. [267840]

Mr. Woolas: The number of applications for residence cards for family members of EEA that took over six months to process, in each of the last three years, are as follows:

	Total of cases with a processing time of 6+ months
2006[1]	810
2007	4,480
2008	6,420
2009[2]	3,890
Total	15,600

[1] From 6 May 2006

[2] To 6 May 2009

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for residence cards for family members of EEA nationals are being processed. [267841]

Mr. Woolas: As of 6 May 2009 the number of applications for residence cards for family members of EEA nationals awaiting processing was 28,590.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [274540]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

International Organisation for Migration: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated to the International Organisation for Migration in 2008. [271370]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has allocated approximately £19.9 million to the International Organisation for Migration for the financial year 2008-09. This figure is subject to audit.

Licensed Premises: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* public houses, *(b)* night clubs and *(c)* other licensed premises in each police force area in Wales have been issued with (i) a written warning, (ii) a penalty notice and (iii) a temporary or permanent closure notice as a result of drunken behaviour in or around the licensed premises under the powers of the Licensing Act 2003, in each year since the Act came into force. [270704]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 23 April 2009]:* The Home Office does not collect data centrally on any of the issues raised.

Penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) can only be issued to individuals for 24 specific offences. Information collected centrally records the offence but is not broken down further to provide details of location etc. PNDs cannot be issued to 'other' defendants which would include companies and public bodies.

Data on the number of closure notices issued are collected by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport who have provided the following Tables. These cannot be broken down by premises type.

Table 1: Number of completed reviews following a premises licences closure order—Welsh licensing authorities

	Premises licence (following closure orders under s.161 of Act)	
	April 2006 to March 2007	*April 2007 to March 2008*
Blaenau Gwent	0	0
Bridgend	0	0
Caerphilly	1	0
Cardiff	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0
Conwy	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0
Flintshire	0	1
Gwynedd	n/a	0
Isle of Anglesey	0	1
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0
Newport	n/a	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0
Powys	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taff	n/a	0
Swansea	0	0
Torfaen	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	0

Table 1: Number of completed reviews following a premises licences closure order—Welsh licensing authorities

	Premises licence (following closure orders under s.161 of Act)	
	April 2006 to March 2007	April 2007 to March 2008
Wrexham	0	0
Wales total	1	2

Notes:
1. Does not include closure orders where a review did not take place.
2. This power did not come into force until May 2007.
3. Statistics on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment licensing have been collected on an annual basis since 2006-07. This collection does not identify the number of public houses in England and Wales, but rather the number of premises authorising the sale or supply of alcohol by means of a premises licence or a club premises certificate. The figures therefore include licensed premises such as hotels, off licences and convenience stores as well as public houses.

Table 2: Number of premises licences closure notice, where a premises is prohibited from selling alcohol for 48 hours following a closure notice under S.169A for persistent sales of alcohol to children—Welsh licensing authorities

	Closure notice (premises licence) under s.169A of Act	
	April 2006 to March 2007[1]	April 2007 to March 2008
Blaenau Gwent	n/a	0
Bridgend	n/a	0
Caerphilly	n/a	0
Cardiff	n/a	0
Carmarthenshire	n/a	0
Ceredigion	n/a	0
Conwy	n/a	0
Denbighshire	n/a	0
Flintshire	n/a	0
Gwynedd	n/a	n/a
Isle of Anglesey	n/a	0
Merthyr Tydfil	n/a	0
Monmouthshire	n/a	0
Neath Port Talbot	n/a	0
Newport	n/a	0
Pembrokeshire	n/a	0
Powys	n/a	0
Rhondda Cynon Taff	n/a	0
Swansea	n/a	0
Torfaen	n/a	0
Vale of Glamorgan	n/a	0
Wrexham	n/a	0
Wales total	n/a	0

[1] This information was not collected for 2006-07.

Note:
Statistics on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment licensing have been collected on an annual basis since 2006-07. This collection does not identify the number of public houses in England and Wales, but rather the number of premises authorising the sale or supply of alcohol by means of a premises licence or a club premises certificate. The figures therefore include licensed premises such as hotels, off licences and convenience stores as well as public houses.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Rotherham's letter of 5 October 2008 addressed to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in respect of Mr Charles Spencer and a visa request for a Ukrainian national, Ms Natalia Dvokriadkina. [246316]

Mr. Woolas: The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South, and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) replied to the right hon. Member on 13 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 11 February 2009 regarding Mrs. A. Dar. [264347]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 20 April 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 27 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs. Herd S. Ali. [266375]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 25 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Yasmin. [266559]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 25 March 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter to her dated 16 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. M. Ahmad. [268026]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 17 March 2009.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of 18 February 2009 on his constituent Mr John Crosby. [273081]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member's correspondence on 13 May 2009.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for North Norfolk of 20 March 2009. [273397]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 7 May 2009]*: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency replied to the hon. Member on 7 May 2009.

Metropolitan Police: Discrimination

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid by the Metropolitan Police in settlement of claims for discrimination in each of the last five years; under what category of discrimination each case was paid; and what the individual sum was in each case. [270930]

Jacqui Smith: The available data are given in the table. Decisions to award settlement are taken by the Metropolitan Police Service and the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Under the Normington Review proposals, the Home Office has stopped collecting information on compensation claims from April 2009, in order to reduce the bureaucratic burden on police forces and free up officers to focus on tackling local crime.

Figures on individual cases are not collected centrally.

AD8641: Amounts paid, either by settlement or award, by the Metropolitan police in compensation claims in each of the last five years

£

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Amount of monetary settlements paid however the employment tribunal orders at the end of the case					
Other Discrimination	63,750	399,315	90,000	69,500	324,000
Race Discrimination	189,700	140,450	141,667	23,000	4,375
Sex Discrimination	97,000	165,200	148,500	31,750	191,290
Amount of awards paid in employment tribunal					
Other Discrimination	0	0	0	11,380	0
Race Discrimination	0	13,980	0	0	0
Sex Discrimination	0	0	53,415	0	0

Note:
Data have been validated and confirmed by the Metropolitan police.

Organised Crime Partnership Board

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Organised Crime Partnership Board (OCPB) has taken since its inception; what goals have been set by the Board in 2009 and 2010; and when the Ministerial Advisory Group sponsoring the OCPB's work will be established. [273024]

Jacqui Smith: The Organised Crime Partnership Board (OCPB) has developed a single programme of work aimed at strengthening the co-ordinated response to organised crime across the law enforcement and criminal justice community. The comprehensive programme of work, which has been endorsed by the National Policing Board, will increase collaboration across agencies to deliver the maximum impact on the threats from organised crime.

A Programme Board has been established to oversee delivery of 10 projects, reporting through the OCPB to the Ministerial Advisory Group. Executive and Working Group leads from the law enforcement agencies have been appointed for each of the 10 projects and work is ongoing to set out the detailed deliverables, interdependencies, time scales, milestones and risks.

The first meeting of the Organised Crime Ministerial Advisory Group was held on 18 March.

Organised Crime: Crime Prevention

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish her Department's new strategy on organised crime. [276561]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are planning to publish the strategy in the summer.

Personal Records: Data Protection

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* records and *(b)* data fields there are in (i) the Police National Computer, (ii) the Impact Nominal Index, (iii) the Police National Database, (iv) the National DNA Database, (v) the National Fingerprint Database, (vi) the National ANPR Data Centre and (vii) the UK Border Agency's e-borders programme. [265736]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

(i) Police National Computer (PNC)

The Police National Computer (PNC) is a critical national service which the Police Service and many others in the Criminal Justice System rely on in order to perform their jobs effectively and safely.

The PNC contains records from a number of separate information databases. The information records stored on the PNC are as follows:

Vehicles—these records are made up of the key data items held by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) that describe the vehicle and its registered keeper. This information, supplemented by any police reports relating to vehicles of interest to the police, is primarily used for roads policing purposes.

Drivers Licences—these records are made up of the key data items from DVLA and record driver entitlement. Their use is confined to roads policing. The system was constructed to enable enquiries to be carried out efficiently and save members of the public from having to present their documents at police stations, reducing inconvenience and saving police time.

Property—these records are constructed by the police and describe stolen, lost and found items of property that are uniquely identifiable by a (serial) number.

Crimelink—these records are constructed by the police and relate to serious unsolved crimes, where the perpetrator has yet to be identified.

National Firearms Certificate Holders—these are records pertaining to the management of firearm licences. They hold details of members of the public who legally own firearms, renew firearms licences, have been refused a licence or had one revoked. The Dunblane tragedy was a key driver for developing the system.

Names—these records are created when individuals are arrested. They record any charges and the subsequent disposal. All recordable convictions are held on the PNC. In England and Wales, records are retained in accordance with ACPO's Criminal Records Office PNC Data Retention Guidelines (publicly available via the ACPO website). In essence all records are retained until the individual is

100 years of age. Records from Scotland are retained in accordance with their legislation and records on the PNC are deleted in the same timeframe as that of Scotland's Criminal History System (CHS).

The table shows the number of records held on the PNC, broken down by the various information databases, as at 13 November 2008. These figures are not mutually exclusive; for example, the same record may be included in more than one database.

	Number
Vehicles	58,161,658
Names	9,172,689
Drivers Licences	51,901,851
Property	97,978
Crimelink	621
National Firearms Certificate Holders Register (NFCHR)	1,390,920

The current number of data fields available for each type of record is as stated in the following table.

	Number
Vehicles	33
Names	253
Drivers Licences	58
Stolen property	22
Crimelink	19
National Firearms Certificate Holders Register	253

While this illustrates the data fields available they will not all be completed for every record.

Where fields are sub-divided, for example a post code may be entered in two parts, or where multiple entries can occur, for example up to 999 addresses may be entered on a person's record, this has been counted as one data field.

(ii) Impact Nominal Index (INI)

The INI is a system used by all police forces in the United Kingdom and other joint operating authorities such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency and Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre. It provides summary level information of people who have passed through one of six business areas of the police forces. These business areas are: crime, custody, child protection, domestic violence, firearms licensing (revoked and refused) and intelligence.

The system is part of the response to Sir Michael Bichard's inquiry into the Soham murders, seeking to provide a national information sharing capability to prevent criminals escaping detection simply by crossing force boundaries.

As at 19 March 2009 there were 69,246,299 records on the INI.

Each INI record contains 15 data fields, which include eight fields for the basic nominal data such as surname, forenames, PNC ID, date of birth, age and gender.

The remaining fields contain reference information pertaining to the origin of the data such as the details of the police force/organisation, reference ID, business area and number of records held.

(iii) Police National Database (PND)

The PND has not yet been built and therefore does not contain any records or data fields.

(iv) National DNA Database

The National DNA Database (NDNAD) plays a key role in catching criminals, eliminating the innocent from investigations and focusing the direction of inquiries. It is also one of the few long-term investigation tools, sometimes identifying criminals many years after they believe they have escaped detection. The purpose of the NDNAD is to match DNA profiles left at crime scenes with DNA profiles from known subjects and thereby provide the police with a lead for further investigation.

As at 30 March 2009 there were 5,614,411 subject profile records retained on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) from all police forces, relating to approximately 4,856,466 individuals. Of these, 5,258,779 were from English and Welsh police forces, relating to approximately 4,548,844 individuals. In addition, as at 31 December 2008 there were 343,657 crime scene profiles retained on the NDNAD, of which 329,482 were from English and Welsh police forces.

The reason why the number of subject profile records is not the same as the number of individuals is that it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion; that is, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names or different versions of their name on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded.

All NDNAD records have the same structure consisting of 36 data fields. However, some of these fields are only relevant to subject profiles, and some are only relevant to crime scene profiles. Therefore, no record will have all data fields completed.

(v) National Fingerprint Database (IDENT.1)

IDENT1, the national fingerprint database, is central to police investigation, crime detection and public safety. It gives the ability to establish the identity of arrestees and link a presence at a crime scene with a verified identity quickly and, where necessary, to a forensic standard.

As at the end of February 2009, the IDENT1 (National Fingerprint Database) Unified Collection of Print Sets contained the verified identities of 7.8 million individuals, with which were associated 16.9 million sets of ten-prints and 6.7 million palm prints. The Unified Collection of Unresolved Crime Scene Marks contained 1.78 million finger marks and 115,000 palm marks. There were also 4,600 marks in the Serious Crime Collection.

In addition to the fields representing the biometric data above, there are five fields relating to the biographic data associated with each person: first name, surname, date of birth, gender and appearance.

(vi) National ANPR Data Centre (NADC)

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology allows vehicle registration marks to be "read" by cameras and for the details to be compared against identified database records.

ANPR data itself involves a number of different components. These are:

The overview image, which shows a picture of those parts of vehicle captured by camera while photographing the number plate.

The plate patch, which extracts and isolates the picture of the number plate from the overview image.

The ANPR interpretation (Read) which shows how the ANPR programme has read the number plate.

Hotlists, which are lists of vehicles of interest to the police.

ANPR matches (hits) which show when an ANPR read has matched something on a hotlist.

Time, date and location stamp, which show when and where the data was obtained (the entire national system is time/date synchronised).

The NADC provides a national store for the ANPR data captured by police forces.

The NADC does not itself contain personal data. However, it does contain data which, when combined with other data sources (e.g. vehicle keeper records), could identify an individual. Access to the NADC is only permitted for major and serious investigations and requires authorisation in each case by a senior officer. The level of authority required to access ANPR data increases over time.

It is estimated that there are currently 1.3 billion records held on the system.

For each number plate read recorded, nine fields are populated. For each number plate read that matches a hotlist (for example a list of uninsured vehicles), 11 fields are populated, six fields are used to record details of cameras, four fields are used to record audit information.

(vii) UK Border Agency's e-borders programme

The Semaphore Legacy system of e-Borders currently contains over 82 million records.

The e-Borders system will capture data on passengers and crew arriving in and departing from the UK. This data is API (Advance Passenger Information) and OPI (Other Passenger Information). API will be captured on all those travelling to and from the UK and will comprise up to eight data fields. OPI will be provided by carriers on selected routes only. This will be a data record corresponding to their passenger reservation information. Carriers will only be required to provide this to the extent that it is known, the number of data fields in these records will therefore vary and none are mandatory.

Police Community Support Officers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the expanded list of police community support officer powers outlined in the Policing Green Paper will be *(a)* finalised and *(b)* implemented nationally. [273035]

Jacqui Smith: The results of the evaluation of the powers of police community support officers will be published this summer.

Police: Internet

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions each police force has accessed social networking websites to carry out investigations in the last 10 years. [273433]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 May 2009]*: The information requested is not held centrally, and the only way that it could be provided is to approach each police force directly.

Police: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable has been set for the work on redefining the role and core competencies of police sergeants and the associated accreditation process. [272928]

Jacqui Smith: The activities of the police sergeant role are being rationalised and updated as part of the first phase of the review of the Integrated Competency Framework and will be available for use within role profiles and sergeants' Performance and Development Reviews from late June 2009.

Police: Pay

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the salary of the chief constable of each police force in England and Wales is. [276793]

Mr. Coaker: The salaries for each chief constable in England and Wales are contained in Home Office Circular 24/2008, which can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/publications/
homeofficecirculars/circulars2008/0242008/
621951?view=Binary

I have placed a copy of this circular in the House of Commons Library.

Racially Aggravated Offences: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to reduce the level of racially-aggravated crime in Coventry in the last 12 months. [276692]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Much of the Home Office's work to tackle racially-aggravated and other hate crimes is at national level as the first step.

For instance, the Home Office is currently developing a Cross-Government Action Plan on Hate Crime in conjunction with other Departments and criminal justice agencies. This aims to support Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), such as Coventry's Community Safety Partnership, to tackle racially-aggravated crime and learn from good practice in other localities. Local areas need to be able to tailor their response to their particular situation.

Coventry's Community Safety Partnership continues to prioritise the importance of anti-racist training which has been delivered not only to staff working in the community but also to police officers, neighbourhood wardens, social landlords and community activists. Hate crime in Coventry has been reduced by 9.1 per cent. in the 12 months of 2008-09 against the previous 12 months of 2007-08.

Sentencing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* penalty notices for disorder were issued for (i) burglary, (ii) theft and (iii) other offences in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [276244]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Data on the number of offenders issued with *(a)* a caution for (i) burglary (ii) theft and (iii) other offences for England and Wales in each year from 2007 (latest available), are shown in table 1.

Data on the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for the offence of retail theft and other offences included in the PND scheme for England and Wales in each year from 2005 to 2007 are shown in table 2. The disposal is not available for issue for burglary or for any other category of theft offence.

Cautions and PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of offenders issued with a caution by offence type, and the offence stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting), in England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[1]

Offence type/Offence	2005	2006	2007
Burglary	6,451	7,687	6,972
Theft and handling stolen goods	67,619	72,369	72,790
of which			
Stealing from shops and stalls (shoplifting) (Theft Act 1968, Sec 1)[2]	44,012	45,054	44,747
Violence against the person	51,020	57,273	52,334
Sexual offences	1,761	1,922	1,966
Robbery	622	712	614
Fraud and forgery	6,936	8,024	8,587
Criminal damage	7,246	9,018	8,813
Drug offences	34,390	37,426	43,050
Other indictable offences	6,889	9,378	9,972
Summary offences (excluding motoring)	116,011	146,168	157,797
Total	298,945	349,977	362,895

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] The data for this offence are also included in the offence type of theft and handling stolen goods.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Table 2: Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by offence, England and Wales 2005 to 2007[1]

		Number issued	
Offence code and description	2005	2006	2007
£80 tickets issued			
Wasting police time	2,525	3,933	3,966
Misuse of public telecommunications system	405	909	1,193
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	92	106	96
Causing harassment, alarm or distress	64,007	82,235	77,827
Throwing fireworks	642	682	649
Drunk and disorderly	37,838	43,556	46,996
Sale of alcohol to under 18	2,058	3,195	3,583
Purchasing alcohol for under 18	170	407	335
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises	83	60	64
Delivery of alcohol to under 18	209	297	431
Criminal Damage (under £500)	12,168	20,620	19,946
Theft (retail under £200)	21,097	38,772	45,146
Breach of fireworks curfew	33	53	39
Possession of category 4 firework	13	28	22
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	47	76	106
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	32	47	81
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	3	60	54
£50 tickets issued			
Trespass on a railway	220	1,042	1,527
Throwing stones at a train/railway	20	15	25
Drunk in a highway	3,138	2,712	2,066
Consumption of alcohol in public place	712	1,061	1,544
Depositing and leaving litter	737	1,109	1,374
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	84	73	85
Allowing consumption of alcohol for under 18	27	14	11
Buying alcohol by under 18	21	73	158
Total all offences	146,481	201,197	207,544

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform Evidence and Analysis unit.

Sexual Offences

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders have been subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements in the last 12 months. [274074]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on MAPPA management and on the number of registered sexual offenders in England and Wales are available in the annual published MAPPA reports

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

The MAPPA annual report for 2007-08 is the most recent. A total of 5,788 registered sexual offenders were managed via MAPPA meetings between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on *(a)* provision of and *(b)* funding for sexual assault referral centres. [277677]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have committed to ensuring that every police force has access to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) by 2011. There are currently 28 SARCs operating with a further nine in development.

As part of the 2008-09 SARC funding round, the Home Office funded a team of experts led by the Department of Health to assist areas who have yet to develop a SARC with their plans for one, including providing advice on bids and suitable models. The team will be funded by the Department of Health from 2010.

In 2009-10, £1.6 million has been made available for new and existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs). £659,000 was allocated in September 2008. A further £941,000 was announced in April 2009 and organisations have until 3 June to submit bids.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on provision of funding for sexual assault referral centres by local authorities. [277678]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have supported the establishment and development of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) network since 2003-04. However, because health and police budgets are devolved, SARCs must be resourced primarily at a local level if they are to be sustainable. Sources of funding for SARCs include police forces and primary care trusts, police authorities, hospitals, local authorities, local crime and disorder reduction partnerships and community safety partnerships, local criminal justice boards and donations from businesses and private benefactors. National service guidelines on developing SARCs have been produced jointly by the Home Office and Department of Health which strongly encourage those who commission health and police services to invest in SARCs in line with local assessments of need.

In addition, as part of the 2008-09 SARC funding round, the Home Office funded a team of experts led by the Department of Health to assist areas who have yet to develop a SARC with their plans for one, including providing advice to areas on developing local partnerships and securing local funding. The Department of Health will be funding the team to continue this support until 2011.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment has been made of the adequacy of provision of sexual assault referral centres. [277679]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have committed to ensuring that every police force has access to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) by 2011. There are 28 SARCs operating and a further nine in development. Every Government office area has a SARC either in operation or in development.

As part of the 2008-09 SARC funding round the Home Office funded a team of experts led by the Department of Health to assist areas who have yet to develop a SARC with their plans for one. In 2009-10, £1.6 million has been made available for new and existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs). £659,000 was allocated in September 2008. A further £941,000 was announced in April 2009 and organisations have until 3 June to submit bids. Priority for funding will be given to areas that do not currently have access to a SARC.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with charities and groups that work with victims of sexual crime on Government assistance for them. [277680]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office provides core funding of £75,000 each to the two umbrella organisations representing victims of sexual violence: (i) Rape Crisis England and Wales; and (ii) The Survivors Trust. That funding has continued in 2009-10. In addition, the Home Office has contributed to the cross-Government Special Fund of £1.6 million for specialist sexual violence voluntary sector organisations which was announced on 19 March by the Minister for Women and Equality.

The Special Fund and other central Government funds are provided in addition to local funding which may be provided, for example, from local authorities, health bodies and charitable trusts. Local decision makers are best placed to assess local needs, and Government expect the majority of funding to the sexual violence voluntary sector to come from local sources. The Government recognise the ongoing funding problems experienced by the sexual violence voluntary sector, particularly in respect of accessing local funding. We are working with our delivery partners to consider what more can be done to assist organisations to access local funding. This follows on from the recommendations made by the Home Office's Stakeholder Advisory Group on Sexual Violence and Abuse Funding Sub-group.

In addition the Government Equalities Office has commissioned a research project to help improve our understanding of the stability and sustainability of the violence against women voluntary sector, including sexual violence services. We aim to develop a long-term funding strategy for the sector later this year.

Terrorism: Foreigners

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria apply in taking decisions on whether to *(a)* deport and *(b)* charge terrorist suspects from overseas following their arrest. [273318]

Mr. Woolas: The criteria which apply to a decision to deport in these circumstances are first, that the person's deportation from the United Kingdom would be conducive to the public good, and second, that the person's removal to the intended destination would be consistent with the United Kingdom's international obligations.

The policy for charging terrorist suspects from overseas is the same as for all suspects and is set out in the Crown Prosecution Service's Code for Crown prosecutors. In all cases, there are two tests: whether there is sufficient evidence; and whether a prosecution is in the public interest. Whether it would be in the public interest to prosecute such cases will depend on the particular facts of each case.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of *(a)* domestic burglaries and *(b)* robberies included the theft of a vehicle in each year since 1997. [273529]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Analyses of the items stolen in incidents of domestic burglary as described by victims interviewed by the British Crime Survey (BCS) are published annually by the Home Office as supplementary tables to our annual crime statistics 'Crime in England and Wales'. The following table provides an estimate of the proportion of incidents of burglary in which a vehicle or vehicle parts were stolen for all available years from 1997 onwards.

The number of BCS respondents who have been robbery victims is too low to provide a robust breakdown on the nature of items stolen.

Items stolen in incidents of burglary[1], 1997 to 2006-07

								BCS
					Interviews			
	1997	*1999*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Vehicle/vehicle parts[2]	1	2	2	6	4	5	4	4
Unweighted base	391	405	482	584	521	517	492	509

[1] Figures from 1997 to 2002/03 refer to incidents of burglary with loss. Figures from 2003-04 to 2006-07 refer to incidents of burglary with entry.

[2] 'Vehicle/vehicle parts' includes 'motorcycle/moped', 'car/van', and 'car/van accessories/parts'.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs has provided scientific advice to the Government on tranquillisers in the last 12 months. [276016]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* The chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs has not provided scientific advice to the Government on tranquillisers in the last 12 months.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed by the UK Border Agency. [276373]

Mr. Woolas: The number of people employed by the UK Border Agency is set out in the following table:

Area	*Full-time equivalent figure*
UK Border Agency[1]	16,782
International Group[2]	2,308
Total[3]	19,090

[1] Permanent and temporary civil servants. Figure excludes agency workers.

[2] This figure contains locally engaged staff who are employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

[3] These figures do not include those transferred from HMRC as they are not, as yet, formally part of the Agency.

Sources:

1. ADELPHI personnel system 31 March 2009
2. International Group 1 April 2009

UK Border Agency: Pay

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff earned over *(a)* £60,000, *(b)* £80,000 and *(c)* £100,000 in 2008. [271362]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows.

For the calendar year 2008:

104 employees earn between £60,000 and £80,000

20 employees earn between £80,000 and £100,000

1 employees earn over £100,000

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas visits UK Human Trafficking Centre staff have undertaken in each of the last three years; what the destination was of each such visit; and what the total cost of such visits was. [272050]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 30 April 2009]:* Figures for the past three years are not available .

However, since 18 March 2008 UKHTC staff have undertaken 45 trips abroad that have incurred a total expense of £23,760.67.

These trips have been predominantly to European destinations, with other trips to the USA and Saudi Arabia. The purpose of these visits has been to take forward work to progress co-operation on human trafficking with our European and international partners.

This has included operational matters, joint training with the International Organisation of Migration and the Irish police, the launch of the Irish Blue Blindfold campaign and the signature of an intelligence sharing MoU with the US Human Smuggling and Trafficking Centre.

Vetting

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place for payment of compensation to those who lose *(a)* their post and *(b)* an opportunity to take up a new post owing to the length of time taken to complete a Criminal Records Bureau check. [276315]

Mr. Coaker: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not pay compensation. The payments CRB makes are on an ex gratia basis, as an award to reinforce the sincerity of an apology.

The CRB is bound by the Treasury Guidelines and must endeavour to put all individuals back into the position they would have been but for any maladministration on the part of the Bureau. This scheme is called a Redress Scheme. The CRB awards redress if it has not followed its procedures and it has caused the applicant a loss.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of people on the Independent Safeguarding Authority's list of those prevented from working with children. [276409]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office holds no information on people on the Independent Safeguarding Authority's list of those prevented from working with children.

Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent work her Department has undertaken with local authorities in the provision of victim support services. [272689]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 6 May 2009]*: Support for victims is primarily the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice although the Home Office continues to support some specialist services particularly for victims of violent crime.

For example, the Home Office has funded 28 Sexual Assault Referral Centres to provide support to victims of sexual violence and is supporting the national rollout of independent domestic violence advisers, and independent sexual violence advisers, ensuring that this support is available to all victims of these crimes.

The Ministry of Justice is working directly with local authorities to help them improve their response to human trafficking, strengthening the identification and support of victims.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent work her Department has undertaken with local authorities in the provision of rape crisis services. [272688]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 6 May 2009]*: The Government expect the majority of funding to the sexual violence voluntary sector to come from local sources as police and health budgets, and area based grants, are devolved to local decision makers who are best placed to assess local needs. However, the Government recognise the ongoing problems experienced by the sexual violence sector in respect of accessing local funding. Officials across Government are working to develop a long-term funding strategy based on research currently under way, and on recommendations made by the Home Office's Stakeholder Advisory Group on Sexual Violence and Abuse Funding Sub-group.

In order to support services in the short-term, the Minister for Women and Equality announced on 19 March 2009, a £1.6 million special fund to keep open much-needed services by providing grants to specialist sexual violence voluntary organisations.

Work Permits

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU citizens were given the right to work in the United Kingdom in each of the last six months for which figures are available. [254587]

Mr. Woolas: Information relating to the number of work permit applications for non-EU workers approved between July and December 2008 is contained in the following table.

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain. This table does not include grants of permission to work under comparable routes within the new points based system as those data are not yet available. It is due to be published in August.

Approved work permit applications, non-EU nationals [1, 2]

2008	Number
July	11,225
August	12,680
September	13,780
October	10,450
November	9,360
December	4,220

[1] Figures are rounded to nearest five.

[2] The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Questions *(a)* 245364 on senior information risk owner and *(b)* 245325 on data handling by contractors and suppliers, tabled on 15 December 2008. [261531]

Mr. Woolas: I replied to the hon. Member on 23 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 114W and 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 271-72W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 247975 tabled on 12 January, on placing material in the Library; what the reason for the time taken to reply is; and if she will make a statement. [263297]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 298W. My Department makes every effort to answer all Members parliamentary questions within the timescales given.

Young Offenders: Sexual Offences

Judy Mallaber: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to tackle sexual violence perpetrated by children and young people; and if she will make a statement. [275378]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A minority of sexual offenders are children. Their age and needs as children have to be balanced against the issue of public protection as they have committed a serious criminal offence. Such challenges are acknowledged in the 2007 Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse and a cross-Government framework on Young People who Sexually Abuse is currently being developed.

This will establish a common screening framework so that young people who display sexually harmful behaviour are identified earlier and receive appropriate treatment, thereby reducing the risk of reoffending in adulthood.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Church of Scientology

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 428W, on Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund, whether the Church of Scientology is deemed to be a faith organisation under her Department's definition of a religious or belief community. [277109]

Mr. Khan: The Government do not maintain a list of recognised faiths. The Equality Act 2006 and the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 define religion and belief as "any religion or any religious or philosophical belief or any lack of such religion or belief". This broad definition is in line with that in article 9 of the European convention on human rights, which also stipulates that a religion must have a clear structure and belief system. This is consistent with the guidance notes for applications to the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund. If there is any question of doubt as to whether or not something constitutes a religion or belief within that definition then it would ultimately be a matter for the courts to determine.

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years. [277649]

Mr. Khan: In February 2008 the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) published its Sustainable Operations Policy. The document details the Department's commitment to ensuring our internal activities are sustainable and that our performance continually improves. The policy covers the key areas of climate change and energy, sustainable consumption and production, and natural resource protection. It addresses all the targets and mandates for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) requiring, for example, that all new departmental buildings, major refurbishments and office relocation projects fully consider and as appropriate include measures that recognise the need for appropriate procurement, adaptation and resilience to future climate conditions during the design process.

Specific measures taken during the last two years have included fitting solar film to glazing (to reduce solar gain), and commissioning a heat recovery feasibility study at Eland House, which identifies options for reducing the CLG estate's contribution to the urban heat island effect.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of her Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277728]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government is currently in the process of calculating the potential gross costs and savings arising from planned climate change adaptation measures across the HQ estate over the next three years.

There are a number of adaptation measures being considered, such as the application of additional solar film and installation of heat recovery systems, but these options have not yet been fully appraised. Having assessed the potential short term risks to the Department's estate from climate change the primary focus at present remains on climate change mitigation.

Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment her Department has made of the merits of self-certification for fire certificates in light of the effect on businesses of the Corporate Manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007. [277363]

Mr. Khan: None. Fire certificates, as required by the 1971 Fire Precautions Act, were abolished in October 2006 with the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Councillors

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Baroness Hamwee of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WA134, on community empowerment, housing and economic regeneration, for what reasons her Department has decided not to proceed with proposals on *(a)* remote attendance and voting by councillors, *(b)* payments for councillors on loss of office and *(c)* incentives to vote in local elections. [276960]

Mr. Khan: Most of the proposals for change in the White Paper "Communities in Control" do not require legislation. For those where legislation is required, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, which is currently before Parliament, contains the major provisions, including a number added since introduction. Given the stage of the parliamentary cycle, we have decided to concentrate our energy on this, and not to publish a Draft Community Empowerment Bill, which would have contained only a few more minor proposals.

Substantial progress has been made since "Communities in Control" was published. We plan to publish a "Communities Progress Report" soon.

Departmental Consultants

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 385W, on departmental consultants, if she will place in the Library a copy of the final report produced by McKinsey and Company as part of its review of her Department's communications. [277025]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 779W.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many members of staff in her Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274300]

Mr. Khan: A total of seven staff have been dismissed from this Department, or its predecessors, and its agencies in the last 10 years for poor performance.

As the number of staff dismissed in each of the last 10 years is less then five, we are not able to supply this information on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects her Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if she will make a statement. [275975]

Mr. Khan: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". Copies of "Public Bodies 2008" are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is available in the publication "The Department for Communities and Local Government's Public Bodies 2008". A copy of this publication can be obtained from the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/publicbodies2008

Information about reviews commissioned since the Department's creation is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, I would like to refer the hon. Member to the departmental annual report, which sets out the activities of the Department over the year including information on reviews and taskforces. Copies of the current and previous annual reports for Communities and Local Government are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its predecessor spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274208]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows how much the Department has spent (excluding VAT) with its preferred supplier on the purchase of recycled office supplies in each of the last five years:

£

	(a) recycled office supplies	*(b) recycled printer cartridges/toners*
2004-05	133,014	11,058
2005-06	127,731	7,473
2006-07	109,624	16,551
2007-08	113,128	33.540
2008-09	114,005	37,583

The Department's office supplies were ordered from the supplier's Globe & Tick™ range of sustainable products. Globe & Tick™ assessment criteria are based on a broad range of factors including the supplier's environmental management system, the country of origin, ease of disposal and the method of transportation if imported from overseas.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of office supplies purchased by her Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275350]

Mr. Khan: For the period May 2008 to April 2009, 29 per cent. of the Department's office supplies were ordered from the supplier's Globe and Tick™ range of sustainable products. Globe and Tick™ assessment criteria are based on a broad range of factors including the supplier's environmental management system, the country of origin, ease of disposal and the method of transportation if imported from overseas.

During this period 92 per cent. of our paper came from a recycled source.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 387W, on departmental visits abroad, what the purpose was of each visit to *(a)* North America, *(b)* Australia and *(c)* Asia. [277232]

Mr. Khan: The purpose of each visit to North America, Australia and Asia was to represent the Department and provide expert advice on policy/subject issues.

Records on overseas visits held in Communities and Local Government (CLG) do not identify separately the detailed information on the purpose of each visit.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many work placements her Department and its predecessor offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274490]

Mr. Khan: Over the last five years the Department for Communities and Local Government has taken the following number of university students or graduates on work placements:

	Students
2009	24
2008	10
2007	9
2006	9
2005	13

The Department does not keep a record of how many individuals have undertaken work placements from school pupils.

Fire Prevention

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she has considered the merits of enabling fire services to conduct fire risk assessments for local businesses under the Fire Precautions Act 1971. [277304]

Mr. Khan: The Fire Precautions Act 1971 was abolished in October 2006 with the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Under the Fire Safety Order, those with the responsibility for any non-domestic premises are required to carry out a fire risk assessment and put in place measures which adequately protect lives in the event of a fire. Local fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) are required by the order to enforce the provisions of the order in the majority of premises. While FRAs can support responsible persons to comply with the order through the provision of fire safety advice and guidance, their enforcement duty means it would be inappropriate for them to carry out risk assessments on behalf of the responsible person.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions her Department has received a request from *(a)* the Tenant Services Authority and *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies to incur expenditure which is potentially (i) novel and (ii) contentious in each of the last three years. [270578]

Margaret Beckett: There have been no formal requests from the Tenants Services Authority or the Homes and Communities Agency to incur expenditure which is potentially novel or contentious.

The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government. The Department has not approved any formal requests on the basis that the proposals were novel or contentious in the last three years for programmes and projects relating to English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation or the Academy for Sustainable Communities.

In practice, the HCA, TSA and their predecessor bodies would normally discuss any potentially novel and contentious expenditure with the Department before submitting a formal request.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure made by the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies required approval from her Department in each of the last five years; and how many grants of approval were made. [270647]

Margaret Beckett: The framework document for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) provides that for project-based programmes, prior Community and Local Government (CLG) approval is required for any projects which involve proposed public expenditure of £10 million or over, expenditure that is potentially novel, contentious or repercussive, or an endowment (to support the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of amenity lands). It also provides for CLG approval for any project under the Community Infrastructure Fund, for all PFI projects, and for all novel or major joint venture projects. My Department has given no approvals to the HCA since its inception on 1 December 2008 under the above categories that involved expenditure in 2008-09.

The predecessor bodies for the Homes and Communities Agency were English Partnerships, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation, and the Academy for Sustainable Communities. A range of departmental programmes also transferred to the Agency from Communities and Local Government.

Prior to the inception of the HCA, the investment arm of the Housing Corporation was required to seek departmental approval on an annual basis on the investment appraisal criteria to be used for assessing bids on its national affordable housing programme and related sub-programmes.

The financial memorandum for English Partnerships (EP) required that CLG approval was given for spending in excess of £10 million, all endowments, and spending which involved the acquisition of a greenfield site. The following table shows the number of approvals made in each of these categories in each year over the last five years. In addition EP sought CLG approval to enter into an interest in a number of bodies in recent years, many of which would have led to expenditure for revenue support of the body; all such subsidiary undertakings are listed in EP's annual report and accounts.

Finally, the Department has not approved any formal requests on the basis that the proposals were novel, contentious or repercussive in the last five years for programmes and projects relating to English Partnerships, the Housing Corporation or the Academy for Sustainable Communities. In practice, these bodies would normally discuss any potentially novel, contentious or repercussive expenditure with the Department before submitting a formal request.

Approvals to English Partnerships

	Number of approvals
2004-05	
Projects over £10 million	25
Endowments	1
Greenfield	3
2005-06	
Projects over £10 million	9
Endowments	5
Greenfield	—
2006-07	
Projects over £10 million	18
Endowments	6
Greenfield	—
2007-08	
Projects over £10 million	9
Endowments	7
Greenfield	1
2008-09	
Projects over £10 million	6
Endowments	3
Greenfield	0

Housing Associations: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* local authorities on housing asylum seekers in each of the last five years. [266500]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office does not record the level of expenditure incurred by local authorities and housing associations in respect of the housing of asylum seekers.

Housing: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities in the South East provide details of building control commencement and completion notices to the Valuation Office Agency. [277012]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Valuation Office Agency offices in the South East of England have reported that the following local authorities have provided building control commencement lists and building control completion notices in the last 12 months.

	Commencement lists	*Completion notices*
Eastbourne Borough Council	Yes	No
Hastings Borough Council	Yes	No
Lewes District Council	Yes	No
Rother District Council	Yes	No
Wealden District Council	Yes	No
Brighton and Hove Council	Yes	No
Ashford Borough Council	Yes	Yes
Canterbury City Council	Yes	Yes
Dover District Council	Yes	Yes
Gravesham Borough Council	Yes	Yes
Sevenoaks District Council	Yes	Yes
Shepway District Council	Yes	Yes
Swale District Council	Yes	Yes
Thanet District Council	Yes	Yes
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Yes	Yes
Medway Council	Yes	Yes
Eastleigh	Yes	Yes
Fareham	Yes	Yes
Gosport	Yes	Yes
Havant	Yes	Yes
New Forest	Yes	Yes
Test Valley	Yes	Yes
Portsmouth	Yes	Yes
Southampton	Yes	Yes
Isle of Wight	Yes	Yes
Basingstoke and Deane	Yes	Yes
East Hants	Yes	Yes
Hart	Yes	Yes

	Commencement lists	Completion notices
Rushmoor	Yes	Yes
Winchester	Yes	Yes
West Berkshire	Yes	Yes
Bracknell Forest	Yes	Yes
Chiltern	No	Yes
Aylesbury Vale	No	Yes
Guildford	Yes	No
Waverley	No	Yes
Woking	Yes	No
Cherwell	No	Yes
Oxford	Yes	No
Elmbridge	Yes	No
Spelthorne	Yes	No
Mole Valley	Yes	No
Reigate and Banstead	Yes	No

Housing: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of capital expenditure on housing was spent in each region in each year since 1997. [277451]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on current and capital expenditure on services in each region is available from pages 117-31 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2008 (PESA) published by HM Treasury. In addition, the Department's annual report carries information on expenditure across different categories by region. Further analysis would demand extra work from officials which would be at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average right-to-buy discount was as a percentage of average *(a)* house prices and *(b)* right-to-buy property sale prices in each region in each year since 1997. [275906]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the average Right to Buy discount as a percentage of house prices in England, by year and region.

Percentage

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands
1997-98	27	—	26	25	25
1998-99	25	—	25	26	24
1999-2000	17	23	23	23	23
2000-01	19	21	22	21	22
2001-02	17	20	21	20	20
2002-03	16	18	17	19	17
2003-04	16	18	17	16	17
2004-05	16	16	15	15	15
2005-06	16	16	16	14	15
2006-07	15	16	15	13	15
2007-08	14	16	15	14	14

Percentage

	Eastern	London	South East	South West	England
1997-98	28	29	27	26	27
1998-99	26	27	26	25	26
1999-2000	27	24	25	24	24
2000-01	23	21	21	22	21
2001-02	21	20	20	21	19
2002-03	19	17	18	18	17
2003-04	17	16	17	17	15
2004-05	17	14	16	15	14
2005-06	16	11	16	15	13
2006-07	16	8	15	14	12
2007-08	15	6	14	13	11

Source:

Right to Buy figures are from P1B returns from local authorities to CLG. Average property prices are from CLG House Price Index figures.

The following table shows the average Right to Buy discount as a percentage of Right to Buy property prices in England, by year and region.

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*Percentage* *West Midlands*
1997-98	49	49	47	47	48
1998-99	48	48	47	50	49
1999-2000	47	48	47	46	48
2000-01	47	47	46	45	49
2001-02	46	46	46	43	47
2002-03	45	45	44	41	44
2003-04	42	43	43	38	40
2004-05	34	41	40	33	34
2005-06	34	37	35	31	33
2006-07	31	34	31	28	30
2007-08	28	32	28	27	30

	Eastern	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*Percentage* *England*
1997-98	50	53	49	49	49
1998-99	49	53	50	50	50
1999-2000	47	51	47	48	48
2000-01	45	48	44	46	47
2001-02	43	42	42	44	44
2002-03	39	37	39	40	41
2003-04	35	32	35	36	37
2004-05	33	28	32	34	33
2005-06	30	22	30	31	31
2006-07	27	14	28	28	27
2007-08	25	13	26	27	24

Source:
P1B returns from local authorities to CLG.

The Right to Buy (RTB) property price figures are based on the total property price, not the amount paid by the purchaser, who is entitled to a discount on the market value. The figures only cover sales of local authority properties through the RTB scheme, not sales of registered social landlord properties. Around 80 per cent. of RTB sales in 2007-08 were local authority properties, while 20 per cent. are of properties owned by registered social landlords.

The average property prices are based on the average of the monthly prices, and the weights used in the mix-adjustment process are changed each year. Figures are not available for the North West for 1997 and 1998 because the North West was previously calculated excluding Merseyside, and mix-adjusted prices for the North West including Merseyside are only available from 1999.

The RTB figures are on a financial year basis, the average property prices are on a calendar year basis.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 450W, on housing: low incomes, how many homes each figure in the table represents. [276377]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following tables show the number of house building completions, and the number of affordable housing new build completions, by year and region.

The following tables show the number of homes built in each year since 1997-98, by region.

	North East	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*Number* *West Midlands*
1997-98	7,580	19,200	15,460	14,550	13,390
1998-99	6,340	19,220	13,080	14,760	14,250
1999-2000	7,200	18,280	13,320	16,480	15,380
2000-01	6,640	18,170	13,340	13,680	14,090
2001-02	6,430	15,840	13,170	14,100	13,370
2002-03	5,610	18,200	13,200	14,880	13,870
2003-04	5,940	17,750	14,000	14,300	13,840
2004-05	7,130	17,910	14,190	15,470	14,150
2005-06	7,640	20,620	16,040	16,890	16,190
2006-07	8,150	18,070	16,230	17,990	15,160

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	Number West Midlands
2007-08	7,980	20,310	15,670	17,380	13,520

	Eastern	London	South East	South West	Number England
1997-98	21,300	13,620	25,440	19,080	149,560
1998-99	18,950	14,430	23,290	15,830	140,260
1999-2000	18,770	13,680	22,800	15,890	141,800
2000-01	16,030	14,490	21,840	14,970	133,260
2001-02	15,620	13,930	21,820	15,600	129,870
2002-03	17,040	15,670	22,750	15,730	137,740
2003-04	18,400	19,390	24,290	15,980	143,960
2004-05	19,890	24,080	25,690	17,410	155,890
2005-06	20,250	18,830	28,210	18,760	163,400
2006-07	22,560	22,760	27,360	19,430	167,680
2007-08	22,230	20,740	30,170	18,990	166,990

Source:
P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC) to CLG.

The following tables show the number of affordable homes built in each year since 1997-98, by region.

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	Number West Midlands
1997-98	1,250	3,190	2,560	1,970	2,460
1998-99	690	3,570	1,840	1,870	2,530
1999-2000	790	2,590	1,600	1,590	2,790
2000-01	580	2,370	1,450	1,360	2,260
2001-02	820	2,640	1,400	1,320	1,950
2002-03	300	2,190	1,230	1,360	2,460
2003-04	560	1,620	1,430	1,490	2,090
2004-05	690	1,960	1,180	1,630	2,610
2005-06	930	2,040	1,550	2,480	3,370
2006-07	1,230	2,230	1,830	2,370	2,440
2007-08	830	3,280	1,970	3,410	3,750

	Eastern	London	South East	South West	Number England
1997-98	2,840	4,920	5,470	3,550	28,210
1998-99	2,990	4,890	5,360	2,950	26,690
1999-2000	2,020	4,410	3,940	2,630	22,380
2000-01	2,250	4,850	3,610	2,230	20,940
2001-02	2,360	5,080	3,860	2,430	21,740
2002-03	2,400	4,620	4,180	2,210	21,100
2003-04	2,760	6,010	5,160	2,860	23,980
2004-05	3,140	6,430	6,440	2,850	26,930
2005-06	4,160	7,460	7,500	3,770	33,260
2006-07	5,020	10,190	7,600	3,360	36,270
2007-08	6,260	11,160	8,290	4,630	43,580

Source:
Affordable housing new build figures are collated from the Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS); and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) returns and P2 house building returns submitted to CLG by local authorities. Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, an additional 10,170 affordable homes were acquired in England in 2007-08; these are not included in the tables above.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many financial assessments have been carried out as part of a household's application under a Homebuy scheme in each of the last three years. [277366]

Margaret Beckett: Each applicant for a HomeBuy scheme has a financial assessment carried out as part of the process to establish their eligibility and ability to afford the costs of the scheme. The Homes and Communities Agency does not collect information on the number of financial assessments that are carried out.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of each contract between her Department and Homebuy agents; and if she will make a statement. [277387]

Margaret Beckett: A copy of the standard contract between the Homes and Communities Agency and HomeBuy agents has been placed in the Library of the House. Individual contracts are commercially confidential.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the receipts from the Social Homebuy scheme were distributed in each of the last three years. [277388]

Margaret Beckett: Receipts from Social HomeBuy sales by housing associations are retained by the vendors and are used to provide further social rented homes.

Local authorities may retain all Social HomeBuy sales receipts provided that these are used for the purposes set out in The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006—Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 521—ie, for the purpose of providing affordable housing or of meeting the costs of the Social HomeBuy scheme.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes purchased for social rent were bought from *(a)* developers, *(b)* private owners and *(c)* other organisations in the social sector in each of the last five years. [277450]

Mr. Iain Wright: For the number of homes purchased for social rent, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 450-51W.

CLG do not have figures on who homes purchased for social rent were bought from.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average right-to-buy discount was as a percentage of average *(a)* house prices and *(b)* right-to-buy sales prices in each region in each year since 1997. [277667]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him today, *Official Report*, (PQ 275906).

Local Government

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to her Department of regulating local authorities was in the last 12 month period for which information is available. [277307]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not regulate local authorities.

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements her Department plans to place on local authorities to report on their annual efficiency savings in each of the next three years. [277031]

Mr. Khan: Councils and authorities including Fire and Rescue services are required to submit information on efficiency savings to the Department twice in each financial year; the first being a forecast of planned savings and the second being the outturn of savings achieved. Councils report through National Indicator 179 and authorities providing Fire and Rescue services report through the Fire Annual Efficiency Statement. Additionally it is a requirement for efficiency information to be recorded on council tax statements.

Local Government Finance Act 1988

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable she has set for the introduction of regulations under the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to allow the deferral of payments for 2009-10 increases in business rate bills. [277017]

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she expects to bring forward legislative proposals for the implementation of the business rates deferral scheme; and if she will make a statement; [277467]

(2) in which payment month she expects the business rates deferral scheme announced on 31 March 2009 to become operational for business rate payers; and if she will make a statement. [277371]

John Healey: I expect the regulations implementing the business rate deferral scheme to come into force by the end of July.

Business ratepayers will be able to apply for deferral with local billing authorities from the point at which the regulations come into force.

Local Government: Consultants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to collect information on payments made by local authorities for consultancy services. [276768]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 630W.

Local Government: Standards

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* central Government of reporting performance information to central Government in the last 12 months; and what the average cost to local authorities in England was in the same period. [277305]

John Healey: A new National Indicator Set was introduced on 1 April 2008 as part of the new Local Performance Framework, replacing all other sets of indicators. These are the only measures on which central Government will performance manage local government working alone or in partnership. A study to estimate the cost of the Local Performance Framework and how this compares with the previous arrangements, including for the collection of performance information, is being planned once the new framework is established.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals received financial help under the home owners mortgage support scheme in each month from September 2008 to May 2009; and if she will make a statement. [277273]

Margaret Beckett: The scheme opened with the first group of lenders on 21 April. Borrowers apply to the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme through their lender. Before being admitted to the scheme, they need to take money advice. We have worked with the participating lenders to produce a proportionate reporting system. This will provide statistics which will be published on a regular basis.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate her Department has made of the cost to *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local authorities of implementing the business rates deferral scheme; and if she will make a statement; [277464]

(2) what estimate her Department has made of the cost to *(a)* businesses and *(b)* local authorities of acquiring software for the administration of the business rates deferral scheme; and if she will make a statement; [277465]

(3) how much funding her Department has allocated to meet implementation costs for the business rates deferral scheme; and if she will make a statement. [277466]

John Healey: The business rates deferral scheme will be operated by local billing authorities as part of their collection of business rates. As set out in the Business Rates Information Letter of 11 May 2009, which is available on the internet at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/busrats1.htm

and was provided to all billing authorities in England, any net additional costs to local government as a whole arising from the business rates deferral scheme will be fully funded under the new burdens principle.

The Government will be publishing an impact assessment alongside laying regulations in Parliament to implement the scheme. This assessment will consider possible costs to businesses and local authorities arising from changes to software systems or other administration.

Official Hospitality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the guidance in her Department's staff handbook on the declaration of gifts, hospitality and financial interests. [273257]

Mr. Khan: Our staff handbook has been developed as an interactive publication delivered through the Department's intranet. It is not held in a format which allows it to be easily exported and therefore could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Young People

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms her Department used to select its national pool of youth advisers; and what criteria were used in the selection process. [277029]

Mr. Khan: The Secretary of State's panel of youth advisers were selected from a national pool of young advisers through an application process undertaken jointly with the Young Advisors charity. Applicants were also asked to provide personal statements as part of the application process.

Applications were assessed against a range of competences including communication, interaction, leadership and managing.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 474W, on adult education, whether his Department has made any estimate of the number of new adult learning places to be created by implementation of the proposals in "The Learning Revolution" White Paper. [275411]

Mr. Simon: We are confident that the range of initiatives announced in "The Learning Revolution" White Paper will both increase the number of learning opportunities and help people access the many and varied kinds of learning that are already available. Adults want to learn in different ways—through structured classes and through libraries, museums, self-organised groups, membership organisations and online.

Our goal is that all adults are able to access a wide range of informal learning opportunities and that learning experiences are better joined-up so that people can pursue their interests. "The Learning Revolution" sets out proposals that will help achieve this goal, including increasing the availability of free and low cost spaces for learning, launching a £20 million Transformation Fund to reach out to new and different learners through partnership and innovation, setting up a support package for local learning champions and harnessing the potential of broadcasting and technology to support and enhance learning.

Adult Education: Finance

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what criteria will be used by the Learning and Skills Council for the allocation of funding of adult education colleges to be announced on 3 June 2009. [277697]

Mr. Simon: In line with Sir Andrew Foster's recommendations, the Learning and Skills Council has been consulting on the best approach to prioritise projects

The first stage of prioritisation will be 'readiness'. Projects which pass through the readiness gateway will then be assessed against the other following proposed prioritisation criteria:

Education and skills impact—this criterion assesses the extent to which the project addresses current and future education and skills need and supports industrial activism.

Contribution to local economic and regeneration priorities—this criterion considers the wider economic and regeneration impact of the project.

Co-dependency with third parties—this criterion looks at the practical implications of not proceeding with the project and the leverage ratios involved.

Condition of estate—this criterion evaluates the condition of the existing estate and the impact on learners and the extent to which they are addressed by the project.

Value for money—this criterion assesses the extent to which the project demonstrates that it has gone through a process to maximise value for money.

We expect to announce which projects will be taken forward during this spending review period in the summer.

Apprentices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Government bodies are involved in the implementation of the apprenticeship programme for 16 to 18 year-olds; and what role each such body has in respect of that programme. [272682]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has lead policy responsibility for apprenticeships for 16 to 18-year-olds in England, and works closely with the Department for Innovation, University and Skills to ensure a coherent programme for young people and adults. A joint policy unit serves the needs of both Departments.

The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) has end to end responsibility for the delivery of the Apprenticeship programme, a role that will be confirmed in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill currently before Parliament. NAS is currently housed within the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which is responsible for funding and contracting of post-16 provision. NAS works closely with the National Employer Service within the LSC to provide an integrated service to large employers delivering Train to Gain and Apprenticeships.

The Prime Minister and both the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, University and Skills are determined to see a continuing renaissance in the number and quality of apprenticeships, and we work closely with the National Apprenticeship Service to ensure a coherent programme for 16 to 18-year-olds in England.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people commenced *(a)* level 2 and *(b)* level 3 apprenticeships in (i) North West Cambridgeshire, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iii) the East of England and (iv) England in each year since the scheme was introduced. [275921]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the number of people starting an apprenticeship in North-West Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency, Cambridgeshire local authority, east of England region and England by level for 2003/04 onwards, the earliest year for which we have comparable data.

Apprenticeship starts

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Apprenticeship starts					
NW Cambridgeshire	300	270	240	300	270
Cambridgeshire	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,400
East of England	13,100	12,300	11,700	12,200	14,600
England	136,600	135,100	122,800	127,400	151,800
Advanced Apprenticeship starts					
NW Cambridgeshire	160	140	110	110	170
Cambridgeshire	600	600	400	500	800
East of England	5,200	4,700	4,200	4,600	6,400
England	57,000	53,900	52,100	57,000	73,000

Notes:
1. Area is based on home postcode of learner.
2. Figures for parliamentary constituency have been rounded to the nearest 10. All other figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. A small number of Higher Level Apprenticeships are included in the Advanced Apprenticeship figures.
4. Figures for England include those learners with missing postcodes, and home postcodes outside of England.

Source:
WBL ILR

The Government are committed to rebuilding Apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in Apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what events were *(a)* held and *(b)* visited by Ministers in his Department during Apprenticeship Week in February; and if he will post on his Department's website a copy of the report on apprenticeships commissioned by his Department from Populus. [276303]

Mr. Simon: During Apprenticeship Week there were events across the length and breadth of the country, across sectors and industries, employers and providers, Sector Skills Councils and Learning and Skills Council (LSC) regions. The activity generated over 600 pieces of national, regional and trade coverage that conveyed the diversity and strength of apprenticeships.

The week received full cross party support from MPs and Ministers. Some examples of these events are:

Gordon Brown visiting Ipswich to launch the Federated Apprenticeship Scheme.

MPs across the country including Lord Young, Gillian Merron, Tom Levitt, Mark Todd, Gordon Marsden, David Evennett, Douglas Hogg, Maria Eagle, Angela Eagle, Malcolm Wicks, Joan Ryan, Bill Etherington, Joe Benton, Phil Willis, Richard Caborn, George Howarth, Natascha Engel and Hugo Swire went back to the floor to learn from the brightest and the best apprentices in a range of industry sectors.

Regions and stakeholders up and down the country ran events aimed at encouraging employers to take on more apprentices. These were supported by a large bank of spokespeople, local authorities, national employers and celebrities. There are too many to list but some examples are:

The LSC East Midlands had an Apprenticeships stand at a Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce Showcase event in Derby.

There was an employer lunch hosted by Luton Borough Council, a joint employer event with the London LSC and City & Guilds.

An employer seminar was held at the North East Business Fair on Recruitment and Retention showcasing the benefits of taking on apprentices.

A business breakfast took place at Bentley Motors in Crewe.

The North West Apprenticeship Summit took place in Cumbria.

Two business breakfasts were held in the South East in Slough and Crawley.

Private and public employer business breakfasts took place in Wellington, Devon, Bristol and Somerset.

There was a public sector event in the West Midlands.

There was an event for retail employers hosted by Skillsmart Retail with guest speaker Theo Paphitis.

An Apprentice Summit hosted by Cogent, employer workshops and events hosted by Construction Skills, Creative & Cultural Skills, Habia, Improve, Lantra, Lifelong Learning UK, Management and Standards Centre, MetSkill, People 1st, Skills for Justice, Skills for Security and SkillsActive.

Colleges were also heavily involved with both independent events and activities such as Exeter College in the South West organised a parade of 50 Performing Arts Students through the town to raise awareness of apprenticeships.

Secretary of State John Denham attended two events during the week.

1. He co-hosted an employer seminar with Secretary of State Ed Balls and Sir Alan Sugar which was attended by over 350 employers. It offered employers an opportunity to question the Ministers and Sir Alan about the value of apprenticeships.

2. Secretary of State also visited Southampton Football Club where he met an Apprentice Footballer who has been nominated for the Football Association's Apprentice of the Year Awards.

Lord Young also took an active role in the events of the week:

1. He gave 20 interviews to promote the business case research findings including Radio 5 Live, Radio 5 Wake up to Money, BBC Radio 2 as well as numerous regional stations.

2. He participated in a webchat with Simon Waugh, Chief Executive of the National Apprenticeships Service and Dave Walsh from British Telecom. It was aired on 14 websites including The Guardian and Personnel Today.

3. Lord Young also went back to the floor, returning to British Telecom where he began his career as an apprentice.

David Lammy MP also participated in the week:

1. He was accompanied by an apprentice from Government Skills for the day. The Apprentice, John, got an insight into the day in the life of a Minister through attending meetings and witnessing the Minister being interviewed at Millbank.

Sion Simon MP visited the opening of Sutton Coldfield/Matthew Boulton Learning Resource Centre during which he met a group of Apprentices at the business centre.

The Populus research referred to was not commissioned by the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills, but by a PR agency on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council. The research was published on 24 February in conjunction with a press notice released to support the activity during Apprenticeship Week. It is available on the National Apprenticeship Service website.

Apprentices: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many public sector apprenticeships have been started in each London local authority area since 2005. [276213]

Mr. Simon: We do not hold centrally data on the number of apprentices there have been in the public sector by local authority. The Government are committed to developing and expanding apprenticeships in the public sector and earlier this year Cabinet colleagues announced plans for the expansion of the apprenticeships scheme across the public sector. We announced a £140 million package to deliver 35,000 extra places this year of which 21,000 would be in the public sector.

Apprentices: South Yorkshire

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people commenced level 2 apprenticeships in *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Doncaster and *(c)* South Yorkshire in each of the last five years. [275821]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the number of people starting a Level 2 apprenticeship in the local authorities of Barnsley and Doncaster, and the metropolitan county of South Yorkshire for 2003/04 to 2007/08.

Level 2 Apprenticeship starts

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Barnsley	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,500
Doncaster	1,700	1,700	1,800	1,600	2,000
South Yorkshire	4,900	4,600	4,300	4,200	5,300

Notes:
1. Area is based on home postcode of learner.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
3. South Yorkshire metropolitan county is made up of the local authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and the City of Sheffield.

Source:
WBL ILR

The Government are committed to rebuilding Apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in Apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Basic Skills

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 skills courses are the most *(a)* over- and *(b)* under-subscribed. [274060]

Mr. Simon: Information on whether individual courses are over-subscribed or under-subscribed is not collected centrally. FE colleges and providers are independent institutions and are responsible for determining their own curriculum offer in order to respond to the demand locally from learners and employers. The curriculum offered by colleges will therefore change to respond to this demand rather than being a set offer that learners and employers apply for. Funding for these courses will also reflect demand and reward those colleges and providers that are most effective at meeting local demand. This will include moving funding from under performing colleges and providers in order to support those over performing.

FE colleges and providers are given indicative budgets based on the expected delivery of an overall volume of learning. However, the actual numbers and types of courses delivered by a college or provider will depend on demand. The Statistical First Release (SFR) "Post-16 Education: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held" (March 2009) provides information on the number of LSC-funded learners.

Tables 1 and 2 show the 10 most/least popular Sector Subject Areas for learning aims in 2007/08, the subject area in which the course is based. It also shows the total number of learning aims undertaken in further education colleges.

Table 1: Learning aims in 2007/08 by Sector Subject Area (SSA)—10 most popular SSAs for courses undertaken in further education colleges

Sector Subject Area (tier 2)	*Number of learning aims*
Foundations for Learning and Life	2,000,700
ICT for Users	338,400
Health and Social Care	335,900
Preparation for Life and Work	315,700
Science	180,700
Crafts, Creative Arts and Design	179,400
Sport, Leisure and Recreation	153,700
Business Management	131,700
Information and Communication Technology	128,700
Languages, Literature and Culture of the British Isles	126,400

Table 2: Learning aims in 2007/08 by Sector Subject Area (SSA)—10 least popular SSAs for courses undertaken in further education colleges

Sector Subject Area (tier 2)	*Number of learning aims*
Social Sciences	5,600
Warehousing and Distribution	3,200
Marketing and Sales	2,400
Publishing and Information Services	2,400
Architecture	1,800
Archaeology and Archaeological Sciences	1,500
Medicine and Dentistry	600
Urban, Rural and Regional Planning	300
Anthropology	100
Linguistics	—

Notes:

1. A learner may be enrolled on more than one learning aim.
2. Includes LSC-funded learners only.
3. "—" indicates less than 50 aims.

Source:

FE and Ufl Individualised Learner Records

Leeds City College Keighley

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that the building programme for Leeds City College Keighley campus is completed on schedule; and if he will make a statement. [276678]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for Further Education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the Council, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to my hon. Friend with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Departmental Contracts

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what services his Department has outsourced in each year since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [275634]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created in June 2007. Its corporate services were then provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Changes and consolidations have been made to those arrangements, so that the list of corporate services now provided by DCSF is as follows:

Human resources
Procurement
Certain finance services
Public communications
Project and Programme Management support
Legal services
Internal audit
Certain services in information and communications technology and information management
Certain estates and facilities management services
Support for Parliamentary work and honours
Central support and data for research and analysis

The list of corporate services now provided by BERR is as follows:

Certain finance services
Certain services in information and communications technology and information management
Certain estates and facilities management services

In addition:

Certain services related to security are provided by the Cabinet Office;

The Department's information and communications technology is provided under a contract with Fujitsu Services Ltd.; and

Facilities management for the building in Swindon that is part-occupied by DIUS staff is provided by the research councils.

Many of the Department's functions are devolved to the organisations that it funds. These are the principal areas in which functions have been transferred away from DIUS since its creation:

The National Measurement System was transferred in April 2009 from DIUS to become part of the National Measurement Office (formerly the National Weights and Measures Laboratory); and

Responsibility for a support programme for collaborative research and development and knowledge transfer activities was transferred in July 2007 from DIUS to the Technology Strategy Board.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274521]

Mr. Simon: All complaints, whether received by e-mail, post, telephone or website are, in the first instance, handled by the Public Communications Unit, a shared service provided by DCSF, who log the complaint and pass the correspondence to the relevant official. The DIUS published procedure is then followed.

This procedure for dealing with the complaints received through all routes is published in full on the DIUS website

http://www.dius.gov.uk/about_DIUS/contact_DIUS/complaints.aspx

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers since its inception. [277153]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has spent £35,656 on gross media, for regional press since its inception.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department since its inception. [277143]

Mr. Simon: Since the Department's creation, special advisers at DIUS have attended two training events, though they have done so as speakers to introduce others to their role in the Department, rather than as learners. Specifically, these two courses were corporate member training and a staff development day.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each year since its creation. [274502]

Mr. Simon: All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

To provide the information requested would incur disproportionate cost. This is because the information is not held in the format requested. It is not possible to disaggregate costs for general training, conferences organised internally and for conferences arranged by outside bodies. Costs for the provision of food at events by a banqueting service cannot be disaggregated between all marketing, conferences and training expenditure.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275252]

Mr. Simon: Information on non-consolidated payments is set out as follows.

	Non-consolidated payments
All staff bonuses (below senior civil service) (£)	221,507
Senior civil service bonuses (£)	311,500
Number of staff awarded bonuses	225

All of these payments were made from and funded within existing pay bill controls. Payments to senior civil servants are based on recommendations for the Senior Salaries Review Body.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department issues on staff claims for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class. [268545]

Mr. Simon: Rules relating to travel claims are set out in the Civil Service Management Code. The Code can be accessed at:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

There is no DIUS departmental guidance for the specific situation of whether members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class.

Guidance does state that staff in grades Senior Executive Officer (SEO) and above have a formal entitlement to first class travel. However, before travelling, all staff should consider the following issues around the journey ahead:

If they need to work on the train there may be occasions, for example travelling at peak times on a busy route, when first class travel will be less busy and noisy than standard class.

If they intend to eat a full meal on the train and claim reimbursement, they should consider whether they will get a better deal by opting for a first class or executive package which includes meal vouchers.

If they have a disability or a temporary condition, such as a broken limb, first class travel is likely to be more comfortable.

It also states staff should consider their class of travel in advance to take advantage of discounts, route deals and meal availability. If they have booked a seat in standard accommodation but find it is too busy and noisy to work, then they may upgrade to first class.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each year since its creation; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275982]

Mr. Simon: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". Copies of "Public Bodies 2008" are available in the Libraries of the House.

Information about reviews commissioned since the Department's creation is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each year since its creation. [273784]

Mr. Simon: The information required is not held centrally and can be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275342]

Mr. Simon: All of the office paper used in DIUS since its creation has been recycled. The proportion of other office supplies that are recycled is not recorded.

Further Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the change in functions of the Learning and Skills Council on the role of specialist independent post-16 colleges; [275805]

(2) what guidance he has given to local authorities on support for the functions of specialist independent post-16 colleges; and if he will direct local authorities to guarantee funding streams for such colleges. [276204]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Independent specialist providers of post-16 education and training play an important role in providing education for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, often with very specific needs and requirements. We recognise the value of having a diverse mix of high quality providers that ensures that our young people are able to access the right course or provision to help them realise their goals and ambitions. We do not feel it is appropriate to centrally guarantee funding streams for particular institutions. Local authorities will need to work in partnership with each other, providers and young people and their families to assess the level of demand in their area and to commission suitable provision that meets young people's needs.

Provision has been made in clause 40 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill to require local authorities, when commissioning provision, to take account of the quality of provision being secured and encourage diversity in the range of education and training on offer to support learner choice. In addition, in deciding whether education and training is suitable to meet young people's reasonable needs, local authorities will be required to have regard to any learning difficulties the persons may have.

We believe that the transfer to local authorities will have significant benefits in terms of a more informed and integrated commissioning of their services leading to better outcomes for learners. Arrangements are being developed, in consultation with stakeholders, that recognise that independent specialist colleges will often work across local authority boundaries and nationally, and consideration is being given to the need to minimise bureaucracy for these and other learning providers. These arrangements will feed into the statutory guidance being developed for local authorities in respect of their commissioning responsibilities which the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) will publish when it comes into being in April 2010, subject to the passage of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill.

We do not expect the YPLA to be involved in the commissioning of learning provision in the vast majority of cases, although there may be some circumstances where it may need to commission provision directly, for instance:

> where a local authority is failing or looks likely to fail in fulfilling its duties under clauses 40 and 47 of the Bill to commission suitable education or training;
>
> with a small number of national providers for whom it may be appropriate to commission at a national rather than local level; and
>
> where the sub regional group (SRG) identifies that they are not yet ready to take on the role.

In those cases, the YPLA will need to engage those providers, including specialist colleges, to ensure that they are commissioned effectively in response to the needs of young people.

Further Education: Plymouth

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many young people resident in Plymouth, Sutton constituency were in further education *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which information is available. [276680]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of participation in education, training and employment in England for those of academic age[1] 16-18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June at:

> http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml

The Department publishes local authority estimates of participation in England as additional tables alongside the national figures, including those for Plymouth local authority. The estimates cannot be further broken down by parliamentary constituency area.

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[1] Academic age represents the age at the start of the academic year, 31 August.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what recent research his Department has commissioned on the aspirations of children in secondary school to go on to higher education; [276893]

(2) what proportion of people leaving school whose parents are in socio-economic groups D and E entered higher education in the last year for which information is available. [276894]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS recently commissioned research as part of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (Next Steps) and the Youth Cohort Study. This covers over 11,000 16 and 17-year-olds, many of whom are at school and college, and includes questions about their attitudes towards higher education including views of its costs and benefits, intentions regarding applying for places, and awareness of financial aspects, subject preferences and other aspects of higher education. We expect that the report will be published in late June 2009.

Information held on higher education students shows whether they are from socio- economic classes 1-7.

In 2006/07, the proportion of 18 to 20-year-olds from the top three socio-economic classes who participated for the first time in full-time higher education was provisionally 39.5 per cent. The proportion from the bottom four socio-economic classes was provisionally 19.0 per cent.

These figures cover English-domiciled 18 to 20-year-olds who are studying for the first time at higher education level at UK higher education institutions or English further education colleges, who remain on their courses for at least six months. Further information is available on the DIUS website:

http://www.dius.gov.uk/~/media/publications/F/FYPSEC%20paper%202008

The provisional 2007/08 figures will become available later this year, along with final 2006/07 figures.

This Government are fully committed to ensuring every young person has a fair chance of attending university. We are making progress with the proportion of young entrants from lower socio-economic groups going to university increasing steadily, reaching almost 30 per cent. in 2007.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many official meetings the Minister for Skills has had with the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council in the last 18 months; and if he will make a statement. [269961]

Mr. Simon: Both the previous Minister for Skills and I have had regular meetings with the chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council over the past 18 months. As part of the overall accountability framework that includes formal quarterly review meetings on LSC performance, the most recent of which took place on 16 March 2009. We also meet on a regular and frequent basis to discuss a wide range of FE policy and implementation issues.

Research: Cancer

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Medical Research Council spent on research into *(a)* leukaemia, *(b)* brain cancer, *(c)* lung cancer, *(d)* colo-rectal cancer, *(e)* breast cancer and *(f)* prostate cancer in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [276945]

Mr. Lammy: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is currently funding a large portfolio of site-specific and general underpinning cancer research. In 2007/08, the MRC's expenditure on cancer research amounted to £89.5 million.

The MRC's expenditure on research related to leukaemia, brain cancer, lung cancer, colo-rectal cancer, breast cancer and prostate cancer in 2005/06 to 2007/08 is as follows:

			£
Area	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Leukaemia	13.8 million	13.3 million	14.0 million
Brain cancers	900,000	940,000	970,000
Lung cancer	1.6 million	2.1 million	2.0 million
Colo-rectal cancer	9.2 million	9.2 million	11.4 million
Breast cancer	5.9 million	5.7 million	6.3 million
Prostate cancer	6.2 million	5.1 million	5.8 million

Spaceflight: EU Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on participation in EU Space policy. [277191]

Mr. Lammy: The UK is committed to working with the EU so as to maximise the potential economic and strategic benefits of space for its citizens, and plays a full role in all forums relating to space.

Trade Marks: EU Law

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect of Council Regulation (EC) No 207/2009 on the Community trade mark, on UK trade mark institutions; and if he will make a statement. [277088]

Mr. Lammy: Council Regulation (EC) No 207/2009 on the Community trade mark makes no changes that have legal effect. Instead it renumbers the regulation on trade marks, and brings into one place the amendments previously made to it. This codification therefore makes it easier for the regulation to be read. We have been told that the codification will necessitate the rewriting of some legal texts and guidance referring to the previous version of the regulation.

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many persons who passed reskill courses were unemployed one year after the end of the course in each of the last three years. [274057]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* Information on the destinations of learners upon completion of their training is not available. This type of information will in future be collected using the Framework for Excellence learner destination survey with the first results for all FE colleges and work based learning providers available later in the year.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arctic

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of recent statements by the Russian Government on the potential for future conflict over resources in the Arctic; and if he will make a statement. [277289]

Caroline Flint: The Russian Security Council published its Arctic strategy, the 'Foundations of Russia's Arctic Policy until 2020 and beyond', on 23 March 2009. It is important to note that the Russian strategy is not just about militarisation. It also includes plans for social and economic development, ecological security, science and technology and international cooperation. With climate change making the region increasingly accessible we support continuing dialogue on this issue between Russia, US, Canada, Denmark and Norway, through the Arctic Council and other international institutions and within international law, most significantly the UN convention on the law of the sea, which provides the framework for the delineation of the Arctic continental shelf.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to Burma have made to the Burmese regime on the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi's physician, Dr. Tin Myo Win; and if he will make a statement. [276350]

Caroline Flint: Dr. Tin Myo Win, Aung San Suu Kyi's regular doctor, was detained by the authorities on 7 May 2009. We understand that he has now been released but we are not aware that he has been able to see Mrs. Suu Kyi since her arrest.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in ASEAN countries on the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi; and if he will make a statement. [276675]

Bill Rammell: We are in regular contact with Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) countries regarding Burma's actions, including on Mrs. Suu Kyi's arrest. We support the strong statements issued by a number of member countries, including Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

My European colleagues and I attended the EU-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting in Phnom Penh on 27-28 May 2009, where I raised Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest and our collective response with our Asian counterparts.

BBC External Services: Manpower

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has mechanisms in place to ascertain whether the BBC World Service employs former Soviet military intelligence personnel. [274675]

Caroline Flint: The BBC World Service (BBCWS) is operationally, editorially and managerially independent of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as stated in the Broadcasting Agreement between the BBC and the FCO for the provision of BBCWS. It is not for the FCO to ascertain the credentials of BBCWS staff or veto their appointment.

Bermuda: Solar Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 560W, on British Overseas Territories: electricity generation, what assessment he has made of the outcome of Bermuda's trialling of solar power stations; and if he will make a statement. [276788]

Gillian Merron: We understand from the Government of Bermuda that trials of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to provide power for homes have produced favourable results. Trials have not begun for commercial buildings; although suitable Government buildings have been identified for them. Discussions are under way to allocate land for a small solar PV power station, which will be preceded by a commercial trial.

In order to encourage solar power adoption, customs duty has been waived on solar PV systems and the Bermuda Government is introducing a rebate programme with a "cash back" scheme for customers who install and operate them, and making the approval process easier and faster.

British Overseas Territories: Borders

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department has provided to the UK Overseas Territories in respect of border *(a)* patrol and *(b)* enforcement in the last 12 months. [276810]

Gillian Merron: In the last 12 months the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has provided funding through its Overseas Territories Programme Fund to the UK Overseas Territories (OTs) towards the costs of the following projects linked to border patrol and enforcement:

An aviation/maritime security supervisor's workshop to provide management training and threat/technical updates to supervisors of international sea-port and airport check point operations

A Caribbean Regional Maritime Training Co-ordinator whose remit covers interdiction and border management training

A multi agency threat and risk assessment programme to identify and mitigate risks from criminal activity and terrorism in the OTs. The programme led to the creation of a committee and subsequently a risk register for each Caribbean OT, together with action plans to reduce areas of significant risk that include sea and airports

A Chief Immigration Officers' Regional Conference to educate and foster close working relationships, improve and enhance information and intelligence exchange between the Overseas Territories Chief Immigration Officers and regional partners

The Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System (OTRCIS); a networked computer system that provides the police, customs and immigration departments of the UK's Caribbean OTs with a crime intelligence and information analysis secure data system.

In addition, the Overseas Territories Programme Fund supports an Overseas Territories Law Enforcement Adviser and Regional Prison Reform Co-ordinator based in Miami and Southern Ocean Police and Prison Advisers.

The FCO did not assist Gibraltar in respect of her border patrol or enforcement.

British Overseas Territories: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many violent crimes were committed against British tourists in *(a)* Bermuda, *(b)* the Turks and Caicos Islands and *(c)* the Cayman Islands in each of the last five years. [276785]

Gillian Merron: The Bermuda Police Service and the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service do not record crime statistics according to nationality and are therefore unable to supply this information. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force recorded one violent crime against a British citizen in 2008. He had been resident in the territory for more than three years before the incident.

British Overseas Territories: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which international environmental treaties bind one or more UK Overseas Territories; and what targets each British Territory is required to meet in terms of emissions under the terms of each treaty. [276790]

Gillian Merron: Details of the international environmental treaties to which the UK Overseas Territories are bound are publicly available through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/treaties/uk-overseas-territories/browse-bv-subject/environment-wildlife.

Texts of the treaties to which the UK is party can be found on the same website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/treaty-command-papers-ems/treaty-command-papers-by-subiect/environment-misc.

The text of the one environmental treaty to which the Overseas Territories are bound but the UK is not party can be found through the UN website at:

http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N95/274/67/PDF/N9527467.pdf?0penElement.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 357W, on British Overseas Territories: environment protection, what projects were funded from the Overseas Territories Environment programme in *(a)* Montserrat and *(b)* Bermuda. [276796]

Gillian Merron: The following projects were funded from the Overseas Territories Environment Programme in

Montserrat:

Establishing a botanical garden

Increasing Montserrat's capacity to manage protected areas and conserve biodiversity

Environmental education project

Economic valuation of Centre Hills

Strengthening capacity for species action planning

Conservation and Environmental Management Act implementation

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species implementation

Bermuda:

Somerset Long B[illegible] Nature Reserve restoration, enhancement and long-term management plan

Development of Species and Habitat Recovery Plans, and Capacity Building for Implementation

Environmental education and woodland conservation

Develop and populate map-based interactive global biodiversity information dissemination for Bermuda

Habitat and native species restoration in Bermuda National Trust nature reserves

Saltus Island Project

Bermuda environmental evaluation

Development of an invasive species action plan for Bermuda.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 358W, on British Overseas Territories: environment protection, what steps are planned to be taken in the British Territories in the Caribbean under the project to enhance capacity for adaptation to climate change. [276797]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

This DFID-funded project is managed by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC).

It is expected that by the end of the project the five UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean (Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands) will have developed national climate change adaptation strategies and public awareness and outreach programmes, and initiated the implementation of these.

It is also expected that each participating territory will have developed the capacity to engage with regional and international climate change programmes, and to benefit from and contribute to the work of the relevant regional institutions.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK Overseas Territories are signatories to the Kyoto Protocol. [276807]

Gillian Merron: This information is publicly available through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/treaties/uk-overseas-territories/browse-by-date/1991-2004

and also on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change website:

http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/status_of_ratification/items/2613.php.

British Overseas Territories: Human Trafficking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to counter human trafficking in the UK Overseas Territories. [276811]

Gillian Merron: Some of the UK assisted projects relating to border controls and enforcement would also assist the Overseas Territories' efforts to counter human trafficking. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) organised and funded a training course for Overseas Territory and FCO immigration staff held in the British Virgin Islands in February 2009. The aim of the course was to enhance the officials' immigration knowledge and experience, and it included training about human trafficking.

British Overseas Territories: Young Offenders

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of the personal records on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System relate to persons aged 18 and under. [276817]

Gillian Merron: The number of records on the Overseas Territories Criminal Intelligence System that relate to persons aged 18 and under is 4,376.

Council of Ministers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many A points were approved in the Council of Ministers in 2008. [277095]

Caroline Flint: The total number of A points adopted by the various Council formations during 2008 is 1099. These figures come from the Council Secretariat and can be broken down as follows:

	Number
January	30
February	80
March	58
April	91
May	68
June	147
July	117
August	0
September	84
October	101
November	156
December	167
Total	1,099

Cyprus: Community Relations

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations between northern and southern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [276496]

Caroline Flint: The international community strongly supports the efforts of the two leaders to reunify the island of Cyprus. Last month, the UN Security Council

> "strongly urged the leaders to increase the momentum in the negotiations to ensure the full exploitation of this opportunity".

We are pleased that the two leaders have since intensified their efforts, agreeing to meet more frequently. We welcome the progress already made both in the talks and in confidence building measures. We applaud the recent launch of the bicommunal sub-committee on crime and criminal matters, which will help the fight against organised crime by sharing information. We look forward to early progress on all other confidence building measures agreed between the leaders. The leaders face many challenges but we are confident that, with flexibility and compromise on both sides, they will be able to resolve this long-standing issue, setting an example to the world and reaping the many economic, social and political benefits that a settlement will bring to all Cypriots. It is important that all Cypriots, not just politicians, come together to help create the right environment for a solution.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the detention and trial of General Nkunda; and if he will make a statement. [276703]

Gillian Merron: Our ambassador in Kinshasa has discussed the future of Laurent Nkunda, who remains in detention in Rwanda, at recent meetings with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Foreign Minister. Rwandan and DRC officials are looking at the handling of this issue, which the Foreign Minister has assured us will not impede the normalisation of relations between the two states.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Natural Resources

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo of the exploitation of and trade in minerals in that country; and if he will make a statement. [276704]

Gillian Merron: Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) natural resources have the potential to bring prosperity to the country and help improve the quality of life for people living there through better revenue collection and the creation of wealth and jobs. However, a proportion of those resources are controlled by militias and ill-disciplined members of the DRC armed forces who commit many of the abuses suffered by civilians and who fund themselves, in part, by trading minerals. This is one of a range of factors contributing to the poor standard of human rights in DRC. Better regulatory control over the trade in minerals from DRC and effective measures to discourage transactions which benefit militia groups there, will help improve the human rights situation. We are already working with our partners across Whitehall and internationally to identify ways of achieving this.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on proposed further investigations by the UN Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo of the exploitation of natural resources to finance armed groups in that country. [276731]

Gillian Merron: We strongly support the continued work of the UN Group of Experts. The arms embargo and sanctions regime in place in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are a necessary part of the effort to isolate illegal armed groups, limit the support they receive and reduce the threat they pose to civilians in DRC. The work of the Group of Experts is essential to monitor compliance with the terms of the embargo. Individuals and entities who support illegal militias in eastern DRC through illicit trade in natural resources may now be made subject to sanctions. It is appropriate that the UN Group of Experts should devote some of their effort to investigating such cases.

Democratic Republic of Congo: War Crimes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has met the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Democratic Republic of Congo to discuss the indictment of Bosco Ntaganda by the International Criminal Court in the last six months. [277428]

Gillian Merron: It is the responsibility of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Government, and not of the UN mission in DRC, to bring Bosco Ntaganda before the International Criminal Court.

Our ambassador in Kinshasa discussed the arrest warrant at a meeting with the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Alan Doss, in January 2009. He received assurances that the UN mission would support the DRC Government in carrying out the warrant.

Mr. Doss met my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, during his visit to the UK in May 2009. The arrest warrant was one of the issues they discussed. Mr. Doss has instructed his staff not to deal with Mr. Ntaganda.

Departmental Air Travel

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidelines his Department has in place on air travel by its officials *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* between the UK and other countries and *(c)* overseas. [273680]

Caroline Flint: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) guidelines specify 'approved routes' (preferred routes and carriers) for journeys by air. These are considered to offer the most efficient, safe and economical journey to the destination. They form the basis for staff entitlements for official travel. The same guidelines apply to journeys within the UK, journeys between the UK and other countries and journeys between overseas countries.

For duty travel staff fly in economy class on journeys of three hours or less. For journeys over three hours they may fly in business class.

Carbon offset arrangements are made by the FCO for all air travel originating in London. The FCO also encourage staff booking journeys from overseas to consider making a voluntary payment to reduce the impact of emissions created by journeys at public expense.

Where there is a choice about travelling by rail or air, we encourage budget holders to take a range of factors into account including value for money considerations.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274524]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) aims to respond to any complaints it receives, no matter by what route, in a full and timely manner, and to publicise our complaints procedures to our customers. Individual Departments and posts of the FCO must establish procedures for dealing with complaints (for example our guide to consular support for British Nationals Abroad includes information on how to make a complaint on the service received), while maintaining these standards of service. However, information on these different procedures is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many non-UK nationals his Department employs directly. [276834]

Gillian Merron: All UK-based staff directly employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are UK nationals, apart from a small number for whom exception is made under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955. Each exception must be personally approved of by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

The FCO currently employs 5,400 UK civil servants including just under 900 staff in FCO Services, which became a trading fund on 1 April 2008.

The FCO employs 10,400 locally engaged staff at its posts overseas. We do not hold central records of the nationalities of these staff.

The nationality requirements do not apply to either locally engaged staff or to contractors as they are not directly employed by the FCO.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what training courses have been attended by special advisers in his Department since 2005. [277144]

Gillian Merron: Since June 2007 two special advisers have received training on using the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's mobile secure IT system. One special adviser has received general training on security procedures.

We have no record of what training was received by the previous special advisers before this date.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on departmental mobile phones, what records his Department keeps on the number of communications devices lost by members of his Department. [276799]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office devolves the purchase and safekeeping of these items to its Directorates and Posts overseas. All users are required to sign a statement of responsibility, accepting financial liability for losses incurred through negligence. Losses are reported, recorded and managed locally. The information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2005-6W, on official cars, how many of the cars owned by FCO Services are over six years old. [276779]

Gillian Merron: Of the 40 vehicles currently within the FCO Services fleet, 18 are over six years old.

We are unable to provide any details concerning the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas fleet of vehicles without incurring disproportionate cost.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1489W about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on departmental public expenditure, for what reason the administration allocation for the Jeddah post was reduced from £902,238 in 2007-08 to nil in 2008-09; how the post in Jeddah is now funded; what reductions there have been in *(a)* services and *(b)* staff numbers as a result of the change; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the change on the level of services provided to British citizens on Hajj. [276813]

Gillian Merron: The administration of all UK missions in Saudi Arabia has been centralised in our embassy in Riyadh in order to streamline support work and to improve efficiency. The budget for Jeddah has consequently been amalgamated with that for Riyadh.

The Consulate-General in Jeddah continues to offer consular assistance to British nationals in need, as well as a comprehensive trade and investment service.

The previous post of UK management officer (UK diplomatic position) is now filled by a locally engaged member of staff in line with Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) practice, elsewhere.

The administrative change does not affect the level of service provided to British citizens on Haj. A dedicated team of FCO officers, from our Consulate General in Jeddah, embassy in Riyadh and from the FCO in London, continue to deliver a high level of service successfully for the 2008 Haj.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on departmental public expenditure, for what reason the administration allocation for the New York Consulate-General was reduced from £2,361,293 in 2007-08 to nil in 2008-09; how the Consulate-General is now funded; what reductions there have been in *(a)* services and *(b)* staff numbers as a result of the change; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the change on (i) services provided to British citizens in the eastern United States and (ii) Anglo-American relations. [276815]

Caroline Flint: The administration allocation for all subsidiary posts in the US including Consulate-General New York is now allocated through our embassy in Washington, as the hub of the US network of posts. No public services have been reduced in New York as a result of this change and there has thus been no effect on services provided to British citizens in the Eastern US or to Anglo-American relations.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [279869]

Caroline Flint: This information is not held centrally and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273782]

Caroline Flint: The following figures are for financial years (FYs) running from April to the following March.

Financial year	£
Stationery	
2004-05	3,493,880.10
2005-06	2,888,932.57
2006-07	3,137,282.68
2007-08	3,342,288.35
2008-09	3,202,293.50
Gifts	
2004-05	8,832.84
2005-06	8,291.46
2006-07	13,831.94
2007-08	13,749.76
2008-09	16,998.87

We are not able to distinguish between branded stationery and all other stationery from our reports. The necessary research would incur disproportionate costs.

We are also not able to distinguish between internal and external use from our reports. The necessary research would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff in each of the last five years. [274216]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) centrally spent the following on IT training in the last two financial years (FYs):

Financial year	£
2007-08	[1]228,870
2008-09	[1]256,904

[1] Without VAT.

These figures shown include training in Microsoft applications, FCO specific tools, the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) and one IT eLearning package available to all FCO staff worldwide. Detailed figures for the preceding financial years are no longer available.

The FCO is currently undergoing an IT upgrade. Figures for IT Training delivered as part of this project are not available as they are not individually broken down within the contract.

Some courses are organised, run and paid for by our posts around the world. There is no central record of training courses and costs; that information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

East Africa: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many diplomats from his Department are based in *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* Somalia and *(c)* Ethiopia. [276252]

Caroline Flint: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently changing its Human Resources Management Information system. We are therefore unable to obtain the information to answer this question within the required time scale. We should be able to access the system again within two weeks and I will write to the right hon. and learned Member then.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277413]

Gillian Merron: Actions against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the last three years, under each category are as follows:

2006

10 claims were brought against the FCO. One under the fixed term regulations; one joint sex/race discrimination claim; one joint race/victimisation/breach of contract action; three for race discrimination; two for unfair dismissal and two for unlawful deductions from wages.

Three claims were settled prior to the hearing; the tribunal found in FCO's favour on six; and one case was dismissed.

2007

Seven claims were brought against the FCO. One for discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation; three for disability discrimination; one joint sex/race action; one unlawful deductions from wages and one for unfair dismissal.

Two claims were settled prior to the hearing and the tribunal found in FCO's favour on the other five.

2008

Nine claims brought against the FCO. Seven for unfair dismissal and two for unfair dismissal/race discrimination. All nine claims were withdrawn by claimants prior to the hearing.

European Commission

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of senior officials in the European Commission are UK citizens. [277080]

Caroline Flint: We do not hold this information. The relevant data are owned by the European Commission. The Government are clear that it is in the EU and UK's interests to have successful UK candidates working at the heart of the EU's institutions.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial penalties have been imposed on the UK for non-compliance with a ruling by the *(a)* the European Court of Justice and *(b)* the European Court of Human Rights in each of the last 10 years. [276834]

Caroline Flint: No financial penalties have been imposed on the UK for non-compliance with a ruling by the European Court of Justice.

Supervision of the execution of judgments is the responsibility of the Committee of Ministers. However the Committee of Ministers does not have power to impose financial penalties for non-compliance with a judgment of the Court.

European Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the working groups of which international bodies the European Union sends a delegation. [277081]

Caroline Flint: We do not keep central records of all the international meetings and international working groups which the EU and the UK attends and how frequently they meet. To provide these details would involve a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at which meetings of international bodies in 2008 the European Union was formally represented; and at which of those the UK was formally represented. [277084]

Caroline Flint: We do not keep central records of all international meetings and international working groups which the EU and the UK attends and how frequently they meet. To provide these details would incur disproportionate cost.

Iran: Armed Forces

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the stationing of Iranian forces at the port of Assab in Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [277410]

Gillian Merron: The media have reported that Iran has stationed forces at the port of Assab in Eritrea. However, we have been unable to substantiate these reports, and the Eritrean Government has publicly denied them.

Land Mines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the UK's progress towards meeting the Ottawa Convention's requirements on the removal of anti-personnel landmines from its territory. [276819]

Gillian Merron: Under the Ottawa convention the UK has an obligation to clear the 117 mined areas in the Falkland Islands by March 2019. The Government's decision to proceed with clearance of selected mined areas was announced at the November 2008 Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. The procurement process to carry out this de-mining is under way. A National Mine Action Authority (NMAA), which includes representatives from the Falkland Islands Government, has been established to oversee this operation. The NMAA is currently drafting National Mine Action Standards to ensure the effectiveness and safety of the clearance operation.

The aim is to commence the de-mining operation by the end of 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms A. Dunn. [271022]

David Miliband: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 8 May 2009.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 922-3W, on Somalia: armed conflict, what reports he has received on the countries of origin of foreign fighters entering Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [277225]

David Miliband: We are aware of media reporting of foreign fighters entering Somalia. However, because of the security situation, it is difficult to verify these reports or to assess which countries any foreign fighters may be from.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the accuracy of recent reports that Ethiopian troops have entered Somalia; and whether he has discussed such reports with the Ethiopian Government. [277427]

Gillian Merron: We are aware of recent media reports that Ethiopian troops have entered Somalia. Bereket Simon, head of the Government of Ethiopia's Communications Agency, has denied these.

The Ethiopian authorities have also told our embassy in Addis Ababa that there has been no political decision to re-enter Somalia and that, unless such a decision is made, only normal military border security operations will take place.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what legal advice he has received on whether the recent actions of the Sri Lankan Government constitute genocide. [276115]

Bill Rammell: The crime of genocide depends on certain acts, such as killing members of a group, having been committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. Whether genocide has been committed would depend on a close investigation as to the facts and the motivation for the crimes alleged. Such information is not available at present.

My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have been monitoring the situation in Sri Lanka closely, and have been greatly concerned at the reports of civilians killed in the fighting. They have voiced their concern about the situation and support the EU's call for an independent inquiry into allegations of violations of international law in the conflict.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of *(a)* UK-based and *(b)* non-UK-based journalists expelled from Sri Lanka during the recent conflict; and if he will make a statement. [277206]

David Miliband: Our high commission in Colombo gave consular assistance to four UK based journalists who had been detained and deported from Sri Lanka in two separate incidents since the beginning of 2009. The high commission does not keep records relating to non-UK based journalists.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on independent investigation of allegations of war crimes in Sri Lanka. [277285]

David Miliband: As I made clear in my written ministerial statement on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 73-74WS, we endorse the EU's call for alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law to be investigated through an independent inquiry, and for those accountable to be brought to justice. We believe this could play an important role in the post-conflict reconciliation process.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the capacity of UN officials to access registers containing details of the internally displaced in camps in northern Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [277231]

David Miliband: We are aware of the continued difficulties that UN officials and aid agencies face in accessing registration lists for the people displaced by the recent conflict in Sri Lanka. In all our recent discussions with President Rajapakse and Foreign Minister Bogollagama, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I have urged the Sri Lankan Government to allow full and unfettered access to internally displaced persons camps for the UN and other humanitarian agencies including access to the screening and registration process. We fully support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General in this regard, including his recent visit to Sri Lanka.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1414W, on Sudan: politics and government, what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the Chad-Sudan border area. [276780]

Gillian Merron: We have received reports that on 1 May 2009 several hundred Chadian rebels from the Union of Resistance Forces crossed from Sudan into Chad, reaching the area of Am Dam and Goz Beida in Eastern Chad before being turned back by the Chadian armed forces. The Chadian response involved aerial bombardment, including within Sudanese territory. The current situation remains volatile with the possibility of further attacks.

Sweden: EC Presidency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to meet his Swedish counterpart in advance of Sweden's presidency of the European Union to discuss Sweden's priorities for its presidency. [277327]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly meets the Swedish Foreign Minister, Carl Bildt and will continue to do so. I met my counterpart, Cecilia Malmstrom in Stockholm on 28 April 2009.

Turkey: Natural Gas

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the Nabucco project; what his recent assessment of progress on the project is; and if he will make a statement. [276662]

Caroline Flint: The UK sees diversity of energy sources as vital for its own and the EU's energy security. The Russia-Ukraine gas dispute in January this year underlined the importance of the EU obtaining supplies of gas from a wide range of countries. The development of a southern corridor with the aim of bringing gas from the Caspian region via Turkey to the EU is core to this.

The UK fully supports the Nabucco pipeline project as a key element in the development of a southern corridor for gas and continues to engage actively with EU partners and countries in the region to develop this project.

We welcome the Spring European Council conclusions which called for the commission to bring forward an action plan for the development of the southern corridor by the end of the year. The presidency's Southern Corridor summit declaration of 8 May 2009 also demonstrated the EU's strong political commitment to work to diversify sources of energy supply.

Turks and Caicos Islands

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands first informed his Department of his concerns relating to allegations of corruption within the Government of those islands. [273269]

Gillian Merron: Successive Governors have reported to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) their concerns about rumours of corruption. The FCO has taken these reports seriously and monitored the situation closely. The challenge has always been to gather sufficient credible information to warrant further investigation. For example, a police investigation into allegations of corruption collapsed in March 2006 owing to a lack of evidence.

As a result of substantive allegations of corruption reported to the Governor, together with the key role played by the Foreign Affairs Committee in encouraging people in the Turks and Caicos Islands to provide further information, the Governor established a Commission of Inquiry in July 2008.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer Question 271012, tabled on 21 April 2009, on the Shia Personal Status Law in Afghanistan. [277487]

David Miliband: This question was answered on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1496W.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 1 June 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Apprentices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken to help school leavers between the ages of 16 and 18 years-old find employment through training and apprenticeship schemes. [272683]

Jim Knight: We are determined to ensure that as many young people as possible continue their learning beyond the age of 16 to get the qualifications and experience they need to succeed in an increasingly competitive labour market. Many will continue their learning in the workplace through an apprenticeship or work based learning programme.

All 16 and 17-year-olds will be offered a suitable place in education or training under the September Guarantee. We announced in budget 2009 an additional investment to allow 54,400 more young people to take up a place at school, college or with a training provider. This is in addition to plans recently announced to make available an additional 17,500 apprenticeship places for 16 to 18-year-olds across the public and private sectors. Schools, colleges and Connexions services will give young people in Cheshire the advice and support they need to find a suitable opportunity.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hours a week on average 16 to 18 year-olds spent on apprenticeships in each industrial sector in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [276624]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Apprenticeships for young people are normally full-time and the hours that each individual spends on their framework each week are a matter for the apprentice and their employer. Some apprentices work part-time. Information about the number of hours that apprentices work and train each week is not collected centrally. We are currently consulting on a specification for apprenticeship standards in England which proposes a minimum number of guided learning hours per year for all apprentices.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273925]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families was accompanied by two departmental officials on his visit to Glasgow on 16 April 2009.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what car journeys he took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273926]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families travelled by official Government car to and from the Cabinet meeting. He also travelled by official Government car to visit Crookston Early Years Centre in Glasgow.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1336W, on children: databases, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Framework Agreement. [271472]

Beverley Hughes: A copy of the Business Services Framework Agreement between the Department and Capgemini dated 6 November 2001 has been placed in the House Libraries pursuant to the answer given on 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1116W.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what data sources are used to populate the National Register of Unaccompanied Children; [275472]

(2) what discussions his Department had with the Information Commissioner on the *(a)* design and *(b)* implementation of the National Register of Unaccompanied Children; [275471]

(3) whether a privacy impact assessment was carried out on the National Register of Unaccompanied Children; [275470]

(4) what data fields there are in each record on the National Register of Unaccompanied Children; [275469]

(5) which *(a)* persons and *(b)* bodies have authorisation to access the National Register of Unaccompanied Children directly; [275474]

(6) what disclosures of data held on the National Register of Unaccompanied Children have been made to *(a)* agencies, *(b)* individuals and *(c)* researchers without direct access to the Register in each month since its inception. [275473]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

Although funding is provided by the United Kingdom Border Agency the National Register of Unaccompanied Children (NRUC) is not administered by central Government. The information sought needs to be obtained from NRUC direct at:

www.nruc.gov.uk

Children: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many child care places for children aged four years and under were available in each London local authority area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007-08. [276181]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available specifically for children aged four years and under. Available information on children under eight years of age is shown in the table.

Number[1] of registered child care places for children under eight years of age, position at 31 March each year

Local authority area	*1997*[2]	*2008*[3]
Inner London		
Camden	3,100	6,100
City of London	300	500
Hackney	7,400	7,900
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,800	4,800
Haringey	4,900	5,700
Islington	6,600	6,600
Kensington and Chelsea	5,400	4,300
Lambeth	[4]—	8,200
Lewisham	5,600	7,900
Newham	4,500	6,500
Southwark	8,200	9,600
Tower Hamlets	[4]—	4,700
Wandsworth	11,600	9,300
Westminster	6,200	4,700
Outer London		
Barking and Dagenham	3,200	3,700
Barnet	7,900	8,700
Bexley	4,900	6,200
Brent	5,000	6,300
Bromley	8,300	10,800
Croydon	8,300	12,100
Ealing	6,500	7,900
Enfield	6,100	7,400
Greenwich	3,900	8,200
Harrow	4,700	5,200
Havering	5,200	5,500
Hillingdon	5,700	6,600
Hounslow	5,600	5,300
Kingston upon Thames	5,500	5,100
Merton	6,600	5,700
Redbridge	6,200	7,100
Richmond upon Thames	9,400	6,900
Sutton	4,300	5,400
Waltham Forest	3,200	7,500

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Data Source: Children's Daycare Facilities Survey—total includes day nurseries, playgroups and pre-schools, child minders, out of school clubs and holiday schemes.
[3] Data Source: Ofsted—total includes full daycare, sessional daycare, child minders, out of school clubs and crèche daycare.
[4] Data not available.

Children: Mental Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment is of his Department's progress in meeting its target of having no children placed on adult mental health wards by 2010. [275652]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

Section 31(3) of the Mental Health Act 2007, which the Government are committed to commencing in England by April 2010, places a duty on hospital managers to ensure that under 18s are treated in an environment which is suitable having regard to their age (subject to their needs).

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1238W, where figures were provided for the number of bed-days for under 18s on child and adolescent mental health services and adult psychiatric wards, and these showed that in quarter 3 of 2008-09, the latest quarter for which data are available there were no bed-days for under 16-year-olds in adult psychiatric wards and 2,918 bed-days for 16 to 17-year-olds on adult psychiatric wards. This represents less than 7 per cent. of the total bed-days young people spent on psychiatric wards in this period, a significant reduction from 12 per cent. in 2006-07. We are continuing to monitor progress on this issue.

The National Mental Health Development Unit is currently undertaking a programme of awareness raising, self-assessment and support for trusts on this issue.

Note:

A bed-day is a day during which a person is confined to a bed and in which the patient stays overnight in a hospital.

Children: Protection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many copies of serious case reviews have been misplaced by Ofsted in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [271242]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 5 May 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

As responsibility for the evaluation of serious case reviews transferred from the Commission for Social Care Inspection to Ofsted on 1 April 2007, we are not able to provide information preceding this date. Local safeguarding children boards are required, upon completion of serious case reviews, to send a copy of documents to Ofsted for evaluation.

Since April 2007, Ofsted has received documentation for 234 serious case reviews. One set of documents was lost in December 2007, within one of Ofsted's regional offices, and has not been found. I very much regret this. Due to the highly sensitive content of serious case reviews, the matter was thoroughly investigated and a more secure document handling process was implemented across the whole of Ofsted.

There has been no recurrence. However, there have been four incidents when local safeguarding boards have claimed to have sent documents to Ofsted that were not received. Ofsted has a process for recording receipt of post, which is why we know the Derbyshire documents were received in our Midlands regional office and then lost by us. We have no record of documents from these four incidents reaching any of our four offices and in none of these cases could proof of postage be provided. In each case, documents were subsequently provided to Ofsted and evaluated.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Citizenship: Education

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools in England employ one or more teachers who have completed initial teacher training courses to become specialist citizenship teachers. [275909]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary school teachers in England have completed initial teacher training courses to become specialist citizenship teachers in the last *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* two years. [275910]

Jim Knight: The number of teachers gaining Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) via secondary Initial Teacher Training (ITT) courses in Citizenship for each of the last two years for which data are available is given in the following table.

Teachers gaining QTS Via secondary ITT courses in citizenship

	Mainstream	*Employment based routes*
2005/06	190	40
2006/07	180	40

Notes:
1. Mainstream figures include Universities, other Higher Education Institutions, SCITT and Open University but excludes employment based routes and cases where QTS was granted on assessment-based teacher training.
2. Employment based ITT excludes cases where QTS was granted on assessment-based teacher training.
3. Citizenship includes Citizenship and Business Studies, and Citizenship and History.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA Performance Profiles.

Class Sizes: Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to reduce the number of five to seven-year-olds in unlawfully large classes; and if he will make a statement. [276513]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We take breaches of infant class size legislation very seriously. Officials will be following up with the local authorities and schools concerned to ensure remedial action is being taken. Local authorities and schools have a legal responsibility to limit infant class sizes and, if necessary, the Secretary of State has powers to direct them to comply.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with greater than 250kW of output; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the results. [270615]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children Schools and Families has three headquarter properties in Sheffield, Darlington and London that have environmental control equipment that require inspection under The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

Inspections of our three properties are being scheduled and the inspection results will be placed in the House Libraries.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on carrying out inspections of air conditioning systems within its departmental buildings in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [270616]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children Schools and Families has three headquarter properties in Sheffield, Darlington and London that have environmental control equipment that require inspection under The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007.

The estimated costs for these inspections are:

Sheffield—£1,859 +VAT

London—£2,080 + VAT

Darlington—£1,859 + VAT.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years. [277161]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since January 2004 the Department, and its predecessor (Department for Education and Skills), has spent £1,478,364 on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275260]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on non-consolidated payments is as follows:

All staff bonuses (below senior civil service): £1.070 million

Senior civil service bonuses: £0.78 million

Number of staff awarded bonuses: 1,403

All of these payments were made from and funded within existing pay bill controls. Payments to senior civil servants are based on recommendations of the Senior Salaries Review Body.

European Co-operation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277167]

Jim Knight: Ministers from this Department represent the UK at the regular meetings of EU Education and Youth Councils, and at informal meetings of EU Education Ministers.

In 2009, the Under-Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families, my hon. Friend the Member for Portsmouth, North (Sarah McCarthy-Fry) attended Youth Council on 16 February. I attended an informal meeting of EU Education Ministers in Prague on 22-23 March, at which we discussed a Czech presidency paper about the role of education for recovery and long term development; and the issue of fostering stronger links between education institutions and employers.

I also attended EU Education and Youth Council in Brussels on 11-12 May which discussed the future EU Youth Co-operation Framework. We also agreed conclusions on improving partnerships between educational institutions and employers; and on a new strategic framework for co-operation between member states in education and training in Europe in the period up to 2020.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of children in households with annual income above £30,810 in receipt of education maintenance allowance (EMA) under the EMA guarantee. [277089]

Jim Knight: The EMA guarantee was introduced in the current academic year of 2008/09 and relates to entitlement in future years. No young person will receive EMA under the guarantee before academic year 2009/10.

Under the terms of the guarantee, a successful assessment of eligibility based on household income will entitle the learner to up to three years of EMA on the same rate, as long as they enrol on valid provision and keep to their learning contract. Since September 2008, all young people receiving income assessed EMA will be clear what financial support they will be entitled to if they continue in post 16 learning and meet the agreed requirements relating to attendance, behaviour, and progress on their course.

First Aid: Education

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to ensure that schools provide first aid training to school leavers. [272396]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education already provides children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need to make informed choices in a range of contexts related to health and safety. Children learn about basic and emergency first aid, as well as where and how to obtain health information, how to recognise and follow health and safety procedures and ways of reducing risk and minimising harm in risky situations.

GCE A-Level: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in the London Borough of Bexley completed *(a)* AS and *(b)* A-level courses in each of the last three years. [270810]

Jim Knight: The information available is given in the table:

16 to 18-year-old candidates who were entered for level 3 qualifications at least equivalent in size to one GCE/VCE A-level

	Number
2008	1,303
2007	1,191
2006	1,104

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Figures are for the maintained sector only: maintained schools and further education colleges.

Similar reliable data for AS-level figures cannot be provided as the point at which students 'complete their AS-level' study is hard to define. The final number of AS-levels recorded will depend on when, or whether, students decide to 'cash-in' their AS-levels.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils have no schools where more than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics in 2008 within *(a)* two and *(b)* three miles of their homes. [268483]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

(a) 128,401 pupils[1,2] have no schools[3] with more than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics within two miles of their homes. This represents 2.1 per cent. of all pupils[1,2] attending maintained mainstream schools.

(b) 52,812 pupils[1,2] have no schools[3] with more than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics within three miles of their homes. This represents 0.9 per cent. of all pupils[1,2] attending maintained mainstream schools.

[1] Pupils aged five to 15 years with a valid home postcode attending maintained mainstream schools.

[2] Excludes 632,931 pupils who do not have any schools within two miles and 355,329 pupils who do not have any schools within three miles.

[3] Excludes schools reported to be closed in 2007/08 Attainment and Achievement Tables.

Source:

School Census 2008 - Attainment and Achievement Tables 2007/08

The National Challenge programme is supporting all schools below the floor with bespoke packages of support to help schools accelerate their improvements. This will help to increase the number of good school places for pupils, delivering a sustainable transformation of secondary education across the country.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many entries there were for GCSE examinations for pupils from each type of school in each of the last three years. [268492]

Jim Knight: The answer is provided in the following table:

Number of full GCSE entries by pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, by school type

			Thousand
School type	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
Comprehensive	4,187.0	3,826.6	3,820.6
Selective	227.4	209.0	207.5

Number of full GCSE entries by pupils at the end of Key Stage 4, by school type

Thousand

School type	*2008*	*2007*	*2006*
Modern	203.3	185.2	185.7
Other maintained	31.0	16.6	15.2
Independent	385.1	384.7	388.0

Source:
Attainment and Achievement Tables

The figures relate to pupils who were at the end of Key Stage 4 in the given year and include any GCSE attempts by these pupils in previous academic years. Only full GCSEs have been included.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals achieved eight or more GCSEs at A or A* grade in each of the last three years. [268497]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The answer is provided in the following table:

Number and percentage of pupils who achieved eight or more GCSEs at A or A by FSM eligibility*

	Number		*Percentage*	
	Non-FSM	*FSM*	*Non-FSM*	*FSM*
2006	33,497	844	6.5	1.1
2007	34,728	872	6.7	1.1
2008	37,766	890	7.2	1.2

Source:
National Pupil Database.

The figures are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4 and include results in full and double award GCSEs, vocational/applied GCSEs, short courses and intermediate GNVQs.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils attended mainstream secondary schools at which less than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent. and *(c)* 30 per cent. of pupils obtained fewer than five A* to C grades in GCSE including English and mathematics in 2007-08; [271016]

(2) how many and what proportion of children in care with statements of special educational needs attended mainstream secondary schools at which fewer than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent. and *(c)* 30 per cent. of pupils obtained fewer than five A* to C grades in GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007-08; [260507]

(3) how many and what proportion of children in care attended mainstream secondary schools at which fewer than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent. and *(c)* 30 per cent. of pupils obtained fewer than five A* to C grades in GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2007-08. [260509]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on children in care is usually sourced from the Looked-After Children database but this is not currently matched to attainment data.

Data on pupils in care are also collected via the School Census. However, the School Census may undercount the number of looked-after children in secondary and special schools.

However, data on special educational needs, in care and attainment are currently not matched together in one data extract. Producing that could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The available data extract does, however, combine data on children in care with Achievement and Attainment Table data. In care data from that source is given in the table.

	All pupils		*Pupils in care*	
Number of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 attending maintained mainstream schools at which fewer than:	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
10% of pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and Maths	23,733	4.0	16	0.4
20% of pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and Maths	34,305	5.9	52	1.3
30% of pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and Maths	62,888	10.7	125	3.1

Only schools with results published in the Achievement and Attainment Tables have been included in this answer.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils whose first language was not English achieved five grades A* to C at GCSE including English and mathematics in each year since 1997. [271473]

Jim Knight: This information available can be found in the following table:

Number and percentage of pupils[1] whose first language is not English[2] and are at the end of key stage 4 achieving five or more GCSE's at grade A-C or equivalent including English and mathematics*

	Number	*Percentage*
2004[3]	19,222	[4]37.3
2005	20,690	40.3
2006	22,714	41.7
2007	24,202	43.5
2008	26,328	45.1

[1] Only pupils in maintained schools have been counted.
[2] First language is either known or believed to be other than English.
[3] For 2004, figures are based on pupils ages 15 rather than at the end of key stage 4.
[4] Percentages of pupils at end of key stage 4 whose first language is not believed to be English.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Figures prior to 2004 cannot be given on a comparable basis as qualifications equivalent to a GCSE were not included in the calculation of the attainment results.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils of the relevant age did not gain a GCSE at *(a)* C grade or above, *(b)* D grade or above and *(c)* E grade or above in 2008. [259106]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

In 2008:

123,542 (20.7 per cent.) pupils at the end of KS4 did not gain a GCSE at grade C or above

66,456 (11.1 per cent.) pupils at the end of KS4 did not gain a GCSE at grade D or above

37,180 (6.2 per cent.) of pupils at the end of KS4 did not gain a GCSE at grade E or above

The figures relate to all pupils in maintained schools; and include full GCSEs and vocational GCSEs.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools *(a)* 75 per cent. or more and *(b)* 50 per cent. or more of pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not achieve a single GCSE above grade D in 2008. [251048]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is provided as follows:

(a) The number of maintained mainstream schools[1] where 75 per cent. or more of pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not achieve any GCSEs[2] above grade D at the end of key stage 4 in 2008 was 29.

(b) The number of maintained mainstream schools[1] where 50 per cent. or more of pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not achieve any GCSEs[2] above grade D at the end of key stage 4 in 2008 was 621.

[1] Schools published in the Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables with more than 10 pupils eligible for free school meals.

[2] Includes full GCSEs and vocational GCSEs only. GNVQs and other equivalents are not included.

Source:

National Pupil Database.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils whose first language was not English and who had special educational needs achieved five grades A* to C at GCSE in each year since 1997. [265672]

Jim Knight: This information available can be found in the following table:

Number and percentage of pupils[1] with special educational needs, whose first language is not English[2] and are at the end of key stage 4 achieving five or more GCSE's at grade A-C or equivalent*

	Number	Percentage
2004[3]	1,350	[4]14.9
2005	1,815	19.5
2006	2,460	23.0
2007	3,333	27.9
2008	4,519	32.9

[1] Only pupils in maintained schools have been counted.

[2] First language is either known or believed to be other than English.

[3] For 2004, figures are based on pupils ages 15 rather than at the end of key stage 4.

[4] Percentages of pupils at end of key stage 4 with special educational needs and whose first language is not believed to be English.

Source:

National Pupil Database

Figures prior to 2004 cannot be given on a comparable basis as qualifications equivalent to a GCSE were not included in the calculation of the attainment results.

Gifted Children

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils in (i) each region of England and (ii) Darlington are on gifted and talented programmes. [275751]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect data on pupils participating in gifted and talented programmes. Through the School Census schools are asked to confirm the gifted and talented pupils they have identified. I have placed in the House Libraries a table showing the number and percentage of identified gifted and talented pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools at January 2008, broken down by local authority and region. This shows that the figures for Darlington are 3.7 per cent. (primary) and 13.6 per cent. (secondary), against national figures of 8.1 per cent. and 13.6 per cent. respectively.

Head Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools did not have a permanent head teacher for any period in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [276511]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Literacy: Primary Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department is providing to projects to improve literacy in primary schools in 2009-10. [275785]

Jim Knight: In 2009-10 we expect to spend in the region of £130 million projects to improve literacy in primary schools in 2009-10. This includes funding for schools and local authorities via the standards fund and central delivery costs of the national strategies (including provision of an education field force and free continuing professional development resources for teachers and practitioners), as follows:

£78 million for literacy and mathematics,

£13 million for our communication, language and literacy development programme implementing the recommendations of the 2006 Rose Review of Early Reading,

£30 million for our Every Child a Reader programme,

£8 million for our Every Child a Writer programme.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children in England have received one-to-one tuition in reading through the Every Child A Reader programme since its national implementation; [275789]

(2) what funding has been allocated to the national implementation of the Every Child A Reader programme; [275787]

(3) what the estimated cost per child of the Every Child A Reader programme is; and if he will make a statement. [275788]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: By the end of this school year, just over 8,000 children will have received one-to-one tuition in reading through the Every Child a Reader programme since its national implementation in September 2008. This is at a cost to Government of approximately £17 million over the academic year 2008/09. The implementation of the Every Child a Reader programme is proving to be very successful, with children who access the intensive elements of these programmes making four to five times the normal rate of progress.

A report by KPMG's Every Child a Chance Trust, published in January 2009, estimates the cost per child to be £2,609. This figure includes the costs incurred by local authorities as well as the national training and infrastructure co-ordinated through the University of London's Institute of Education.

This Government are committed to ensuring every child learns to read. For most, this will mean good systematic phonics through the early years and beginning of primary school. For others, extra provision will be necessary—primarily through school-based interventions and our Every Child a Reader programme. We continue to fund local authorities and schools to strike the appropriate balance between whole class teaching and catch-up interventions for those children that need it. We remain committed to rolling out this highly effective programme to reach 30,000 children a year by 2010/11.

Members Correspondence: Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 7 April 2009 on Learning and Skills Council funding; [277482]

(2) when the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 7 April 2009 on funding. [277483]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: A response to the letter to the Secretary of State, signed by the Minister for Schools and Learners, was sent to my hon. Friend on 27 May 2009.

The Learning and Skills Council has been focused on resolving allocations for schools, colleges and independent training providers. Letters with revised allocations for 2009/10, including the letter to my hon. Friend will be issued as soon as possible after the period of sensitivity around elections.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of all correspondence between the Secretary of State, the Minister of State for Schools and Learners and Mr. Ken Boston between January and December 2008. [271772]

Jim Knight: QCA has now placed correspondence between me and Ken Boston, in his role as chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), on their website at:

http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_15838.aspx

That web page also includes correspondence between QCA and other Government Ministers.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of standard assessment tests in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in raising standards of literacy and numeracy; [272951]

(2) what consideration he has given to the replacement of standard assessment tests with a system of assessment by teachers. [272952]

Jim Knight: Over the last 10 years, National Curriculum testing and assessment has played a vital role in ensuring that more than 100,000 more pupils leave primary school secure in English and maths. The Key Stage 2 tests provide a robust and objective measure of pupils' performance, and a recent survey confirmed that they are greatly valued by parents.

We announced last year that 14-year-olds would no longer be required to sit national Key Stage 3 tests, but would be assessed by ongoing teacher assessment throughout the key stage. At the same time, we established a new Expert Group on assessment to advise the Government on the future of testing and assessment and its role in school accountability. The group published its report on 7 May 2009. The group reported that the Key Stage 2 tests are valuable, vital for public accountability and a key part of giving parents objective information on their children's levels of attainment and progress. The group also made a number of recommendations for strengthening the quality of teacher assessment in primary and secondary schools.

The report and its recommendations, which the Government have agreed to in full, can be viewed on the DCSF website at:

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00532-2009&

Primary Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of primary school children expected to transfer to the state sector from the independent sector in the academic year 2009-10; [273859]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the number of primary school children who will transfer to state education from abroad in the academic year 2009-10; [273860]

(3) how many primary school children have *(a)* transferred to the state sector from the independent sector and *(b)* transferred to the state sector from abroad in each of the last 10 years. [273992]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 8 May 2009]*: The Department makes no estimate of the number of primary school children expected to transfer to the state sector from the independent sector, or who will transfer to state education from abroad. Nor does the Department collect data on the number of primary school children who have transferred to the state sector from *(a)* the independent sector or *(b)* abroad.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of primary school places required in England as a result of net migration in each local education authority in each of the years 2009-31. [273994]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 8 May 2009]:* The Department makes no such estimates. Local authorities are responsible for planning the supply of school places in their area and for ensuring sufficient places are available to meet local needs. When projecting future demand for places we expect authorities to take account of factors that will have an impact on future pupil numbers, including net migration.

Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils in each local authority area were excluded for more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35, *(h)* 40, *(i)* 45 and *(j)* 50 days in the last school year for which data are available; [262483]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils in each local authority area who were eligible for free school meals were excluded for more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35, *(h)* 40, *(i)* 45 and *(j)* 50 days in the last school year for which data are available; [262482]

(3) how many and what proportion of primary school pupils in each local authority area were excluded for more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35, *(h)* 40, *(i)* 45 and *(j)* 50 days in the last school year for which data are available; [262481]

(4) how many and what proportion of secondary school pupils in each local authority area were excluded for more than *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15, *(d)* 20, *(e)* 25, *(f)* 30, *(g)* 35, *(h)* 40, *(i)* 45 and *(j)* 50 days in the last school year for which data are available. [262480]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information available, on pupil enrolments, for 2006/07 has been placed in the House Libraries. A small proportion of pupils have more than one enrolment i.e. if they move school during the year or are registered at more than one school. The analysis is based on the duration of exclusions per enrolment.

Figures are as reported by schools.

It is possible that some permanent exclusions have been miscoded as fixed period exclusions.

I am aware that the statistics show that a number of pupils were excluded for longer than the statutory 45 day limit for fixed period exclusions in any one school year. The Department is concerned that a small number of schools that have not met their legal duties in this regard, and has written to relevant local authorities to remind them of the need to monitor and challenge schools that have acted unlawfully in this respect.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Ofsted has reported to his Department the outcome of its thematic review of how schools and local authorities are meeting their requirements to provide excluded pupils with suitable full-time education. [275995]

Jim Knight: Ofsted published 'Day six of exclusion: the extent and quality of provision for pupils' on 13 May 2009. The report is available on Ofsted's website at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Day-six-of-exclusion-the-extent-and-quality-of-provision-for-pupils

Pupil Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils have been given a fixed period exclusion for attacks on *(a)* pupils and *(b)* teachers in (i) National Challenge schools and (ii) schools in each decile of area deprivation in each of the last three years. [268486]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The readily available information relates to the number of fixed period exclusions (not the number of pupils) from schools in each decile of area deprivation, where the reason for exclusion was physical assault on a pupil or physical assault on an adult (including, but not only, teachers), and is shown in the table.

In 2005/06, data on fixed period exclusions were collected from secondary schools only; therefore, the data is not comparable to other years and has not been provided.

In 2004/05 data were collected via the Termly Exclusions Survey. In 2006/07 data were collected via the School Census for 2006/07. Caution is needed when comparing results from the two sources, which have some differences in scope.

The National Challenge programme was launched on 10 June 2008; schools are being supported under the National Challenge to raise pupil attainment—each according to specific local need, including any problems of exclusion. The latest available data on exclusions is for 2006/07; there were no National Challenge schools at that time and therefore data have not been provided.

Primary, secondary and special schools—number of fixed period exclusions for physical assaults on pupils or adults[1]—2004/05 and 2006/07—England

	2004/05[2,3,4]		2006/07[5,6]	
IDACI band of school:	*Physical assault on an adult*	*Physical assault on a pupil*	*Physical assault on an adult*	*Physical assault on a pupil*
0-10	2,630	8,220	2,940	8,900
10-20	2,570	9,010	2,440	8,370
20-30	2,440	10,500	2,370	9,920
30-40	2,070	9,200	2,040	8,250
40-50	2,010	8,950	1,970	9,090
50-60	1,360	6,820	1,480	7,240
60-70	1,490	8,200	1,620	7,800
70-80	1,420	7,370	1,420	7,760
80-90	1,290	6,680	1,250	6,500

Primary, secondary and special schools—number of fixed period exclusions for physical assaults on pupils or adults[1]—2004/05 and 2006/07—England

	2004/05[2,3,4]		2006/07[5,6]	
IDACI band of school:	*Physical assault on an adult*	*Physical assault on a pupil*	*Physical assault on an adult*	*Physical assault on a pupil*
90-100	1,190	5,720	1,060	5,350
Total[7]	18,490	80,700	18,590	79,180

[1] Number of fixed period exclusions where the reason for exclusion was physical assault on a pupil or physical assault on an adult.
[2] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Includes maintained special schools only.
[4] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from the Termly Exclusions Survey.
[5] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools, and city technology colleges and academies.
[6] Information on fixed period exclusions has been derived from the School Census.
[7] Totals for 2004/05 include 73 exclusions where the IDACI band of the school could not be determined.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census.

Pupils: Numbers

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils enrolled in schools in England have been living in the UK for less than two years; and if he will make a statement. [273139]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* We do not hold the information requested.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what school roll projections were made for *(a)* primary pupils and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, (ii) the London Borough of Newham, (iii) the City of Westminster, (iv) Manchester City Council, (v) Birmingham City Council and (vi) Liverpool City Council for each year since 1997; and how many pupils were recorded on school rolls for (A) primary and (B) secondary schools in each such local authority area in each such year. [275997]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The Department collects information on current and projected future pupil numbers annually from local authorities, as part of the surplus places survey. The earliest figures available relate to 2003, and the most recent to 2008.

Tables showing the number of pupils on roll and pupil projections for primary and secondary sch[illegible] that were provided by each of the authoritie[illegible] between 2003 and 2008 have been placed in the Ho[illegible] Libraries.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department has conducted on the likely effects on school roll projections in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools of changes in levels of immigration. [276000]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* National pupil projections take account of several factors, including actual pupil numbers derived from the School Census, expected trends in participation for children outside statutory school ages, and the latest population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The population projections include assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. Details of these assumptions are published on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/PT129_Long_term_assumptions.pdf

Pupils: Biometrics

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much expenditure his Department has incurred in facilitating the collection of biometric data in schools to date; [276640]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure the secure holding of biometric data gathered by schools; [276641]

(3) how many maintained schools in each region use biometric devices. [276642]

Jim Knight: No expenditure has been incurred by the Department, this is a decision which is made entirely within each school, and each school finds resources from within existing school budgets.

Schools are responsible for the security of personal data under the Data Protection Act. The lead agency for technology in schools, Becta, has provided data security guidance for schools which emphasises their legal responsibilities.

Data on numbers of schools in each region are not collected centrally, the decision to use biometric devices is left to individual schools, and no central funding is provided.

Pupils: Epilepsy

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to schools on the provision of support for children diagnosed with epilepsy; and what assessment he has made of the extent to which such guidance is complied with. [276664]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are two different sets of guidance on the provision and support to children diagnosed with epilepsy available to schools. "Managing Medicines in schools and early years settings" was produced in 2005 by the then Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Department of Health. This guidance explains what epilepsy is and provides schools with medical support and advice on what to do should a child experience a seizure.

"Including Me" was produced in the same year in conjunction with key stakeholders to accompany "Managing Medicines". This was published to help schools, early years settings and health providers to develop policies and procedures to ensure that children with complex health needs can access education and childcare. This includes an example of a child experiencing severe episodes of epilepsy having a need identified for a trained learning support assistant at school.

We do not collect data centrally on how many schools actively use both sets of guidance.

Pupils: Languages

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils whose first language was not English achieved an A level in a foreign language in each of the last 10 years. [265673]

Jim Knight: The information available, which relates to modern foreign languages only, can be found in the following table:

Number of candidates aged 16 to 18 at the end of advanced level study whose first language was not English, achieving an A-level in a modern foreign language

	Number
2003	1,360
2004	1,384
2005	1,571
2006	1,302
2007	1,553
2008	1,651

Source:
National Pupil Database

Figures prior to 2003 have not been provided as post-16 attainment matched to pupil characteristics is not available for earlier years.

These figures are for pupils aged 16 to 18 in maintained schools only—pupil characteristics matched to attainment are not available for independent schools or Further Education Colleges.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average spending per pupil was in *(a)* mainstream primary schools, *(b)* mainstream secondary schools, *(c)* special schools, *(d)* pupil referral units and *(e)* academies in each local authority in each year since 1997. [275653]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The average spending per pupil in *(a)* mainstream primary schools, *(b)* mainstream secondary schools, *(c)* special schools and *(d)* pupil referral units since 1997 is shown in a table, which will be placed in the House Libraries.

The average spending per pupil for academies in each local authority in each year since 1997 is not available for individual local authority areas. However, the national funding per pupil for academies, for financial years currently available are shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Per pupil (£)*
2003-04	4,294
2004-05	4,469
2005-06	4,203
2006-07	4,600
2007-08	5,001
2008-09	5,344

Notes:
1. Certain elements of funding such as start-up and VAT grants have been omitted to make the figures better comparable with those for maintained schools.
2. For each academy, the largest element of funding (the school budget share) is calculated by using the relevant local authority formula so that funding is equivalent to that received by a maintained school with identical characteristics.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the per capita spend per child in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools was in each local education authority area in England in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007-08. [276183]

Jim Knight: The per capita spend per child in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools for each local education authority area in England for (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools (1997-98 and 2007-08)

	1997-98		*2007-08*	
	LA maintained pre-primary and primary schools	*LA maintained secondary schools*	*LA maintained primary schools*	*LA maintained secondary schools*
England	1,740	2,360	3,580	4,620
Barking and Dagenham	1,970	2,650	3,790	5,600
Barnet	1,860	2,640	4,040	5,090
Barnsley	1,560	2,220	3,590	4,440
Bath and NE Somerset	1,720	2,360	3,360	4,150
Bedfordshire	1,750	2,240	3,500	4,090
Berkshire	1,610	2,320	—	—
Bexley	1,990	2,350	3,440	4,660
Birmingham	1,940	2,980	3,950	5,230
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	3,580	4,930
Blackpool	—	—	3,530	4,420
Bolton	1,750	2,330	3,350	4,660
Bournemouth	1,480	2,210	3,270	4,340
Bracknell Forest	—	—	3,230	4,430

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools (1997-98 and 2007-08)

	1997-98		2007-08	
	LA maintained pre-primary and primary schools	*LA maintained secondary schools*	*LA maintained primary schools*	*LA maintained secondary schools*
Bradford	2,140	1,640	3,740	4,830
Brent	2,030	3,850	4,130	5,690
Brighton and Hove	1,550	2,310	3,240	4,620
Bromley	1,720	2,570	3,300	4,610
Buckinghamshire	1,630	2,290	3,280	4,220
Bury	1,490	2,160	3,250	4,290
Calderdale	1,660	2,510	3,550	4,560
Cambridgeshire pre LGR	1,580	2,270	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	3,280	4,210
Camden	2,390	3,160	4,960	6,280
Cheshire pre LGR	1,710	2,310	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	3,300	4,300
City of Bristol	1,810	2,570	3,460	4,990
City of Kingston-upon-Hull	1,680	2,280	3,590	4,770
City of London	3,810	0	6,240	0
City of Nottingham	—	—	4,030	5,270
City of Peterborough	—	—	3,590	4,960
City of Plymouth	—	—	3,400	4,510
Cornwall	1,670	2,320	3,380	4,410
Coventry	1,800	2,500	3,640	4,850
Croydon	1,910	2,700	3,720	4,870
Cumbria	1,560	2,500	3,590	4,510
Darlington	1,420	2,070	3,440	4,610
Derby	1,670	2,550	3,590	4,590
Derbyshire	1,580	2,300	3,340	4,320
Pre LGR Devon	1,630	2,310	—	—
Devon	—	—	3,390	4,240
Doncaster	1,890	2,460	3,520	4,870
Dorset	1,640	2,120	3,340	4,180
Dudley	1,570	2,190	3,540	4,390
Durham	1,690	2,210	3,740	4,730
Ealing	2,020	2,700	4,020	5,470
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,610	2,300	3,320	4,140
East Sussex	1,670	2,350	3,400	4,370
Enfield	1,900	2,630	4,010	5,080
Essex pre LGR	1,740	2,580	—	—
Essex	—	—	3,440	4,550
Gateshead	1,700	2,300	3,550	4,990
Gloucestershire	1,640	2,260	3,380	4,270
Greenwich	2,190	2,700	4,440	6,030
Hackney	2,420	3,070	5,230	6,970
Halton	—	—	3,680	5,030
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,520	3,400	4,690	6,070
Hampshire	1,700	2,330	3,410	4,320
Haringey	2,360	3,170	4,370	5,870
Harrow	2,140	2,860	3,860	5,540
Hartlepool	1,500	2,150	3,810	4,820
Havering	1,750	2,720	3,550	5,080
Hereford and Worcester	1,660	2,200	—	—
Herefordshire	—	—	3,470	4,280
Hertfordshire	1,760	2,520	3,310	4,400
Hillingdon	1,730	2,720	3,890	5,230
Hounslow	2,060	2,670	3,910	5,190
Isle of Wight	1,800	2,200	3,830	4,300
Isles of Scilly	2,560	4,570	7,670	0
Islington	2,340	3,170	4,930	6,010
Kensington and Chelsea	2,650	3,410	5,130	6,640
Kent pre LGR	1,700	2,420	—	—
Kent	—	—	3,290	4,510

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools (1997-98 and 2007-08)

	1997-98		2007-08	
	LA maintained pre-primary and primary schools	*LA maintained secondary schools*	*LA maintained primary schools*	*LA maintained secondary schools*
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,830	2,480	3,780	4,830
Kirklees	1,650	2,260	3,800	4,600
Knowsley	1,700	2,260	3,600	5,250
Lambeth	2,810	3,290	5,060	6,480
Lancashire pre LGR	1,670	2,400	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	3,640	4,510
Leeds	1,710	2,370	3,610	4,640
Leicester city	1,740	2,330	3,820	4,920
Leicestershire	1,640	2,290	3,220	4,140
Lewisham	2,340	3,050	4,670	6,270
Lincolnshire	1,680	2,510	3,280	4,420
Liverpool	1,660	2,370	4,020	5,190
Luton	1,700	2,190	3,800	4,930
Manchester	1,620	2,450	3,590	5,150
Medway	—	—	3,570	4,600
Merton	2,060	2,490	3,770	4,670
Middlesbrough	1,580	2,390	3,750	5,430
Milton Keynes	1,610	2,090	3,470	4,660
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	1,940	2,480	3,610	4,780
Newham	1,850	2,820	4,590	6,010
Norfolk	1,710	2,450	3,540	4,340
North East Lincolnshire	1,600	2,230	3,600	4,900
North Lincolnshire	1,650	2,260	3,360	4,570
North Somerset	1,690	2,430	3,300	4,260
North Tyneside	1,640	2,270	3,400	4,570
North Yorkshire	1,650	2,340	3,550	4,320
Northamptonshire	1,580	2,250	3,230	4,400
Northumberland	1,620	2,040	3,060	3,970
Nottinghamshire pre LGR	1,720	2,380	—	—
Nottinghamshire	—	—	3,430	4,400
Oldham	1,650	2,300	3,420	4,870
Oxfordshire	1,630	2,270	3,220	4,410
Poole	1,510	1,820	3,280	4,420
Portsmouth	1,780	2,120	3,630	4,550
Reading	—	—	3,450	4,720
Redbridge	1,810	2,610	3,520	4,750
Redcar and Cleveland	1,630	2,270	3,620	4,670
Richmond-upon-Thames	1,940	2,550	3,650	5,160
Rochdale	1,680	2,400	3,660	4,890
Rotherham	1,590	2,180	3,560	4,750
Rutland	1,800	0	3,530	4,370
Salford	1,560	2,330	3,480	5,020
Sandwell	1,850	2,420	3,730	4,830
Sefton	1,590	2,360	3,610	4,600
Sheffield	1,600	2,180	3,440	4,490
Shropshire pre LGR	1,680	2,480	—	—
Shropshire	—	—	3,250	4,220
Slough	—	—	3,560	4,930
Solihull	1,630	2,320	3,210	4,130
Somerset	1,700	2,240	3,410	4,110
South Gloucestershire	1,650	2,440	3,210	4,280
South Tyneside	1,560	2,110	3,600	4,870
Southampton	1,830	2,420	3,640	5,130
Southend	—	—	3,580	4,610
Southwark	2,130	3,040	5,140	6,730
St. Helens	1,680	2,270	3,470	4,710
Staffordshire	1,580	2,110	3,270	4,220
Stockport	1,570	2,110	3,350	4,250
Stockton-on-Tees	1,450	2,120	3,380	4,520

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools (1997-98 and 2007-08)

	1997-98		2007-08	
	LA maintained pre-primary and primary schools	LA maintained secondary schools	LA maintained primary schools	LA maintained secondary schools
Stoke	1,600	2,300	3,370	4,790
Suffolk	1,770	2,290	3,510	4,240
Sunderland	1,660	2,220	3,520	4,750
Surrey	1,700	2,310	3,360	4,300
Sutton	1,870	2,540	3,530	4,570
Swindon	1,500	2,180	3,230	4,210
Tameside	1,590	2,190	3,290	4,340
Telford and Wrekin	—	—	3,260	4,550
Thurrock	—	—	3,490	4,480
Torbay	—	—	3,300	4,530
Tower Hamlets	2,600	3,200	5,500	7,510
Trafford	1,580	2,300	3,110	4,290
Wakefield	1,560	2,150	3,590	4,340
Walsall	1,630	2,240	3,610	4,590
Waltham Forest	2,110	2,780	3,940	5,500
Wandsworth	2,210	2,640	4,540	5,690
Warrington	—	—	3,170	4,450
Warwickshire	1,670	2,250	3,260	4,150
West Berkshire	—	—	3,390	4,580
West Sussex	1,750	2,360	3,330	4,420
Westminster	2,590	3,050	4,810	6,250
Wigan	1,520	2,310	3,400	4,580
Wiltshire	1,600	2,270	3,260	4,140
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	3,500	4,550
Wirral	1,680	2,360	3,450	4,820
Wokingham	—	—	3,270	4,320
Wolverhampton	1,720	2,500	3,790	5,150
Worcestershire	—	—	3,270	4,210
York	1,600	2,350	3,290	4,190

Notes:

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DCSF (formerly DFES). 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables.
3. The calculation for 2002-03 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in previous years. However, 2001-02 and earlier years includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses. In 2001-02 this accounted for approximately £70 per pupil. From 2002-03 onwards only the schools element of these categories is included and this accounted for approximately £30 per pupil of the 2002-03 total. Also, for some LAs, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the LA part of the form from 2002-03, though this if not quantifiable from existing sources.
4. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF School Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
5. Local government reorganisation (LGR) took place during the mid to late 1990's and those LAs that did not exist either pre or post LGR are shaded out for those years.
6. Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.
7. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of Section 52 for financial year 1999-2000.
8. School based expenditure in LA maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and comparable figures are not available for 2003-04 onwards.
9. Figures are as reported by local authorities as at 12 May 2009 and are rounded to the nearest £10. 2007-08 data are subject to change by the local authority.
10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 12 May 2009.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Finance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the annual accommodation cost of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has been in each year since it was established, broken down into expenditure on *(a)* Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and *(b)* Ofqual; and what premises were used. [254543]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) was established in October 1997. Accounts for the authority during its first six months of operation (1 October 1997 to 31 March 1998) can be provided only at a disproportionate cost and are not included within this response.

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill will seek to evolve QCA into a Qualifications and

Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA), and establish Ofqual on a statutory basis as the new independent regulator of qualifications and assessment. Ofqual has been established in interim form under existing legislation since April 2008. Until proposed legislation comes into force, both the remaining parts of QCA and Ofqual, in its interim form, jointly occupy premises in London, Coventry and Belfast.

Annual costs of rent, rates and utilities to QCA (including Ofqual) from the period 1 April 1998 to 31 March 2008 are shown in the following table.

Accommodation costs

	£ million
2007-08	4.6
2006-07	4.1
2005-06	4
2004-05	4
2003-04	3.3
2002-03	2.9
2001-02	1.5
2000-01	2.2
1999-2000	2.5
1998-99	2.7

Source:
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA): February 2009

Premises occupied by QCA (including Ofqual) from the period 1 April 1998 to March 2008 are as follows:

Properties occupied by QCA since 1998

83 Piccadilly, London, W1J 8QA

Spring Place, Coventry Business Park, Herald Avenue, Coventry, CV5 6UB

Glendinning House, 6 Murray Street, Belfast, BT1

222 Euston Road, London NW1

Unity House, 205 Euston Road, London NW1

Stephenson House, 158-160 North Gower Street, London NW1

Newcombe House, 45 Notting Hill Gate, London W11

Source: Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA): February 2009

Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* administrative, *(b)* recruitment, *(c)* staffing, *(d)* building, *(e)* ICT and *(f)* marketing and advertising costs had been incurred in establishing the (i) Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and (ii) Ofqual at the latest date for which figures are available. [275071]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) has begun a transformation programme, with the creation within its existing powers of interim Ofqual in April 2008; the restructuring of the rest of the QCA as it evolves into the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA); and relocation of QCA to Coventry by early 2010 in line with commitments following Sir Michael Lyons' Independent Review of Public Sector Relocation. Approximately £3 million was spent in 2008-09 on establishing interim Ofqual and relocating it to Coventry by June 2009. These costs include the costs of recruitment, relocation, restructuring, additional staff reflecting the new approach to regulation, and communications. Over the same period, QCA spent £150,000 on restructuring and communications as it evolves into the QCDA.

Racial Harassment: Barnsley

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many racist incidents involving pupils have been recorded at Wombwell secondary school in Barnsley in the academic year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; [276416]

(2) how many racist incidents involving pupils have been recorded at Darton secondary school in Barnsley in the academic year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; [276417]

(3) how many racist incidents involving pupils were recorded at Barnsley secondary schools in the academic year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [276419]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are unable to provide figures for the number of racist bullying incidents in schools as this information is not collected centrally. Our anti-bullying guidance recommends currently that schools record incidents of racist bullying and report these data to their local authority. It advises schools to use the data to monitor their anti-bullying policies, and local authorities to use the data to identify trends and to evaluate area-wide initiatives.

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a general, enforceable duty on all schools (and other public bodies) to: eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; promote equality of opportunity; and promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

We intend to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record bullying incidents between pupils early next year, and will specifically consult on whether schools should be obliged to record racist bullying incidents and report these incidents to their local authority.

Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each local authority area live within walking distance as defined by his Department of *(a)* no, *(b)* one and *(c)* two or more (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools. [259100]

Jim Knight: A table showing the number and proportion of pupils who in 2008 live within (a) two miles and (b) three miles straight line distance of *(a)* none, *(b)* one and *(c)* two or more (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools, broken down by local authority, has been placed in the House Libraries.

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much and what percentage of the dedicated schools grant was clawed back by each local authority *(a)* overall, *(b)* for spending by the local authority within the schools budgets and *(c)* for local authority central functions in the last year for which figures are available. [274585]

Jim Knight: The dedicated schools grant (DSG) must be used in support of the schools budget, which covers both funding delegated to maintained schools and other provision for pupils. The DSG can be used to fund local authority central functions.

The following table provides details of the schools budget for each local authority in England for the 2008-09 financial year as well as details of the proportion of the schools budget retained centrally by the local authority for spending within the schools budget. Local authority budget data for 2009-10 financial year is currently in the process of being collected and validated by the DCSF.

		Of which:			
	Total schools budget (net budget adjusted to show grants gross)	*Delegated to schools*		*Retained centrally by the local authority for spending within the schools budget*	
Local authority name	*£*	*£*	*Percentage of schools budget*	*£*	*Percentage of schools budget*
England	35,387,808,000	31,338,078,000	88.6	4,049,729,000	11.4
Barking and Dagenham	167,893,000	151,763,000	90.4	16,130,000	9.6
Barnet	244,574,000	219,816,000	89.9	24,758,000	10.1
Barnsley	148,340,000	135,686,000	91.5	12,655,000	8.5
Bath and NE Somerset	112,972,000	95,983,000	85.0	16,989,000	15.0
Bedfordshire	284,944,000	257,248,000	90.3	27,696,000	9.7
Bexley	187,490,000	167,024,000	89.1	20,466,000	10.9
Birmingham	928,471,000	858,423,000	92.5	70,048,000	7.5
Blackburn and Darwen	124,443,000	110,693,000	89.0	13,750,000	11.0
Blackpool	94,557,000	80,818,000	85.5	13,739,000	14.5
Bolton	207,738,000	186,960,000	90.0	20,777,000	10.0
Bournemouth	91,023,000	80,426,000	88.4	10,598,000	11.6
Bracknell Forest	70,326,000	59,405,000	84.5	10,921,000	15.5
Bradford	414,661,000	378,096,000	91.2	36,565,000	8.8
Brent	237,660,000	214,983,000	90.5	22,676,000	9.5
Brighton and Hove	144,093,000	123,466,000	85.7	20,627,000	14.3
Bromley	224,310,000	193,044,000	86.1	31,267,000	13.9
Buckinghamshire	346,776,000	297,149,000	85.7	49,627,000	14.3
Bury	123,618,000	109,985,000	89.0	13,633,000	11.0
Calderdale	158,813,000	142,789,000	89.9	16,024,000	10.1
Cambridgeshire	347,173,000	303,684,000	87.5	43,489,000	12.5
Camden	157,452,000	132,777,000	84.3	24,675,000	15.7
Cheshire	453,482,000	400,028,000	88.2	53,453,000	11.8
City of Bristol	225,042,000	194,242,000	86.3	30,800,000	13.7
City of Kingston-upon-Hull	174,768,000	151,751,000	86.8	23,018,000	13.2
City of London	2,185,000	1,588,000	72.7	597,000	27.3
City of Nottingham	195,892,000	160,635,000	82.0	35,257,000	18.0
City of Peterborough	133,794,000	117,858,000	88.1	15,936,000	11.9
City of Plymouth	179,164,000	154,726,000	86.4	24,437,000	13.6
Cornwall	333,945,000	282,132,000	84.5	51,813,000	15.5
Coventry	236,634,000	211,873,000	89.5	24,761,000	10.5
Croydon	236,261,000	206,619,000	87.5	29,642,000	12.5
Cumbria	318,049,000	289,135,000	90.9	28,914,000	9.1
Darlington	65,305,000	57,346,000	87.8	7,959,000	12.2
Derby	173,682,000	159,190,000	91.7	14,492,000	8.3
Derbyshire	489,376,000	431,482,000	88.2	57,894,000	11.8
Devon	413,573,000	375,787,000	90.9	37,786,000	9.1
Doncaster	213,048,000	194,088,000	91.1	18,960,000	8.9
Dorset	253,532,000	220,663,000	87.0	32,868,000	13.0
Dudley	216,621,000	196,440,000	90.7	20,181,000	9.3
Durham	343,057,000	318,309,000	92.8	24,748,000	7.2
Ealing	235,678,000	208,413,000	88.4	27,265,000	11.6
East Riding of Yorkshire	212,120,000	188,062,000	88.7	24,058,000	11.3
East Sussex	304,368,000	260,982,000	85.7	43,387,000	14.3
Enfield	264,121,000	235,877,000	89.3	28,245,000	10.7
Essex	919,055,000	817,036,000	88.9	102,019,000	11.1
Gateshead	129,613,000	114,752,000	88.5	14,860,000	11.5
Gloucestershire	379,747,000	330,161,000	86.9	49,586,000	13.1
Greenwich	225,415,000	196,953,000	87.4	28,462,000	12.6
Hackney	179,196,000	147,317,000	82.2	31,879,000	17.8
Halton	91,504,000	82,442,000	90.1	9,062,000	9.9
Hammersmith and Fulham	105,793,000	91,130,000	86.1	14,664,000	13.9
Hampshire	771,188,000	655,707,000	85.0	115,481,000	15.0
Haringey	196,506,000	175,748,000	89.4	20,759,000	10.6

		Of which			
	Total schools budget (net budget adjusted to show grants gross)	Delegated to schools		Retained centrally by the local authority for spending within the schools budget	
Local authority name	£	£	Percentage of schools budget	£	Percentage of schools budget
Harrow	148,306,000	133,669,000	90.1	14,636,000	9.9
Hartlepool	72,568,000	65,123,000	89.7	7,446,000	10.3
Havering	173,371,000	154,368,000	89.0	19,003,000	11.0
Herefordshire	101,908,000	89,871,000	88.2	12,037,000	11.8
Hertfordshire	784,762,000	701,626,000	89.4	83,136,000	10.6
Hillingdon	203,900,000	187,392,000	91.9	16,508,000	8.1
Hounslow	191,262,000	169,587,000	88.7	21,675,000	11.3
Isle of Wight	88,712,000	77,915,000	87.8	10,797,000	12.2
Isles of Scilly	2,439,000	2,127,000	87.2	312,000	12.8
Islington	145,909,000	122,412,000	83.9	23,497,000	16.1
Kensington and Chelsea	73,711,000	64,935,000	88.1	8,776,000	11.9
Kent	972,054,000	854,203,000	87.9	117,851,000	12.1
Kingston-upon-Thames	103,715,000	94,431,000	91.0	9,283,000	9.0
Kirklees	298,207,000	263,192,000	88.3	35,015,000	11.7
Knowsley	115,962,000	98,920,000	85.3	17,043,000	14.7
Lambeth	201,652,000	170,248,000	84.4	31,404,000	15.6
Lancashire	771,672,000	692,908,000	89.8	78,765,000	10.2
Leeds	499,525,000	458,167,000	91.7	41,358,000	8.3
Leicester City	226,578,000	194,209,000	85.7	32,368,000	14.3
Leicestershire	417,379,000	365,870,000	87.7	51,509,000	12.3
Lewisham	206,951,000	176,586,000	85.3	30,365,000	14.7
Lincolnshire	459,678,000	409,245,000	89.0	50,433,000	11.0
Liverpool	361,438,000	314,426,000	87.0	47,012,000	13.0
Luton	152,145,000	136,816,000	89.9	15,330,000	10.1
Manchester	341,607,000	297,295,000	87.0	44,311,000	13.0
Medway	199,127,000	179,361,000	90.1	19,766,000	9.9
Merton	108,106,000	91,738,000	84.9	16,368,000	15.1
Middlesbrough	94,913,000	83,672,000	88.2	11,240,000	11.8
Milton Keynes	183,901,000	166,873,000	90.7	17,028,000	9.3
Newcastle upon Tyne	179,033,000	159,920,000	89.3	19,112,000	10.7
Newham	295,363,000	260,611,000	88.2	34,752,000	11.8
Norfolk	503,342,000	453,901,000	90.2	49,441,000	9.8
North East Lincolnshire	102,773,000	90,576,000	88.1	12,197,000	11.9
North Lincolnshire	106,752,000	91,530,000	85.7	15,222,000	14.3
North Somerset	125,073,000	110,657,000	88.5	14,416,000	11.5
North Tyneside	131,289,000	122,713,000	93.5	8,577,000	6.5
North Yorkshire	388,723,000	349,675,000	90.0	39,049,000	10.0
Northamptonshire	458,999,000	386,823,000	84.3	72,176,000	15.7
Northumberland	225,067,000	192,079,000	85.3	32,988,000	14.7
Nottinghamshire	509,791,000	468,675,000	91.9	41,116,000	8.1
Oldham	188,084,000	165,305,000	87.9	22,780,000	12.1
Oxfordshire	375,858,000	326,615,000	86.9	49,243,000	13.1
Poole	83,938,000	75,321,000	89.7	8,618,000	10.3
Portsmouth	113,816,000	103,369,000	90.8	10,447,000	9.2
Reading	81,566,000	68,139,000	83.5	13,427,000	16.5
Redbridge	224,776,000	204,044,000	90.8	20,732,000	9.2
Redcar and Cleveland	103,824,000	91,521,000	88.2	12,303,000	11.8
Richmond-upon-Thames	100,169,000	85,879,000	85.7	14,291,000	14.3
Rochdale	160,867,000	144,289,000	89.7	16,578,000	10.3
Rotherham	211,127,000	187,787,000	88.9	23,340,000	11.1
Rutland	21,798,000	19,315,000	88.6	2,483,000	11.4
Salford	146,929,000	128,409,000	87.4	18,519,000	12.6
Sandwell	221,236,000	200,523,000	90.6	20,713,000	9.4
Sefton	194,401,000	175,655,000	90.4	18,747,000	9.6
Sheffield	354,638,000	293,469,000	82.8	61,170,000	17.2
Shropshire	180,827,000	147,963,000	81.8	32,864,000	18.2
Slough	112,826,000	101,456,000	89.9	11,370,000	10.1
Solihull	142,536,000	127,511,000	89.5	15,024,000	10.5
Somerset	312,300,000	268,107,000	85.8	44,193,000	14.2
South Gloucestershire	168,581,000	148,320,000	88.0	20,261,000	12.0
South Tyneside	107,971,000	99,629,000	92.3	8,342,000	7.7

		Of which:			
	Total schools budget (net budget adjusted to show grants gross)	*Delegated to schools*		*Retained centrally by the local authority for spending within the schools budget*	
Local authority name	*£*	*£*	*Percentage of schools budget*	*£*	*Percentage of schools budget*
Southampton	127,519,000	113,262,000	88.8	14,257,000	11.2
Southend	127,799,000	112,468,000	88.0	15,331,000	12.0
Southwark	189,960,000	164,156,000	86.4	25,804,000	13.6
St. Helens	125,228,000	111,191,000	88.8	14,037,000	11.2
Staffordshire	539,822,000	483,675,000	89.6	56,148,000	10.4
Stockport	166,913,000	146,106,000	87.5	20,807,000	12.5
Stockton-on-Tees	132,046,000	121,274,000	91.8	10,771,000	8.2
Stoke	164,827,000	141,135,000	85.6	23,692,000	14.4
Suffolk	427,824,000	384,381,000	89.8	43,443,000	10.2
Sunderland	191,581,000	177,874,000	92.8	13,707,000	7.2
Surrey	648,839,000	567,897,000	87.5	80,942,000	12.5
Sutton	153,426,000	135,500,000	88.3	17,926,000	11.7
Swindon	124,344,000	108,391,000	87.2	15,952,000	12.8
Tameside	157,679,000	137,424,000	87.2	20,254,000	12.8
Telford and Wrekin	111,618,000	100,073,000	89.7	11,545,000	10.3
Thurrock	103,067,000	87,464,000	84.9	15,603,000	15.1
Torbay	86,060,000	74,502,000	86.6	11,559,000	13.4
Tower Hamlets	277,047,000	241,730,000	87.3	35,316,000	12.7
Trafford	160,750,000	144,001,000	89.6	16,749,000	10.4
Wakefield	218,515,000	201,950,000	92.4	16,565,000	7.6
Walsall	218,357,000	197,972,000	90.7	20,385,000	9.3
Waltham Forest	193,876,000	177,230,000	91.4	16,646,000	8.6
Wandsworth	178,802,000	168,674,000	94.3	10,128,000	5.7
Warrington	135,537,000	120,412,000	88.8	15,126,000	11.2
Warwickshire	331,654,000	297,016,000	89.6	34,638,000	10.4
West Berkshire	116,277,000	104,897,000	90.2	11,379,000	9.8
West Sussex	464,413,000	407,730,000	87.8	56,683,000	12.2
Westminster	110,860,000	94,696,000	85.4	16,164,000	14.6
Wigan	211,854,000	196,606,000	92.8	15,248,000	7.2
Wiltshire	290,460,000	255,322,000	87.9	35,138,000	12.1
Windsor and Maidenhead	91,688,000	80,177,000	87.4	11,511,000	12.6
Wirral	235,220,000	211,867,000	90.1	23,353,000	9.9
Wokingham	105,411,000	93,964,000	89.1	11,447,000	10.9
Wolverhampton	194,588,000	179,303,000	92.1	15,285,000	7.9
Worcestershire	345,353,000	311,064,000	90.1	34,289,000	9.9
York	103,824,000	91,032,000	87.7	12,791,000	12.3

Notes:

1. Total schools budget is drawn from local authorities Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection Budget Statements (table 1) submitted to the DCSF. This is calculated as the gross elements of any grants plus the net elements of the remainder of the schools budget.

2. The total amount delegated to schools includes the individual schools budget for local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools as well as any revenue grants and support for schools in financial difficulty delegated to those schools.

3. Cash figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and, therefore, may not sum due to rounding.

4. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 7 May 2009.

Schools: Playing Fields

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria he uses to assess whether the playing field of an *(a)* existing and *(b)* closed school is surplus to the needs of the local community; and if he will make a statement. [275633]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: When considering an application to dispose of school playing fields Ministers take into account any authorised community use of the land in question. Where any authorised community users would be displaced if the application were to be approved, we expect the application to include a full account of the effect on those users, particularly whether their activities can realistically be moved to an alternative site on terms which do not adversely affect the users. They must also be fully consulted about any proposal to dispose of the school playing fields.

Any potential future community use of former school playing fields falls within the remit of the local planning process; Sport England is a statutory consultee in that process.

Schools: Sports

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether all contracts for school sport are open to tender; and what the procedure is for potential bidders to apply. [275952]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 15 May 2009]*: Work in connection with the delivery of the PE and sport strategy for young people is carried out by a range of delivery partners on behalf of the Government under grant aid and contractual arrangements. Potential bidders for any contract advertised follow the normal Official Journal of the European Union or UK procurement procedure, whichever is applicable.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools have been in special measures for *(a)* up to two years, *(b)* between two and three years, *(c)* between three and four years and *(d)* more than four years. [275807]

Jim Knight: The following two tables show the information requested. They are based on the most recent data published by Ofsted for 31 December 2008. No schools had been in special measures for three or more years.

Schools in special measures for up to two years, 31 December 2008

School	*Local authority*	*Date of inspection*	*Number of months in category*
Monteagle Primary School	Barking and Dagenham	5 June 2008	6
Dearne Goldthorpe Primary School	Barnsley	22 October 2008	2
Lansdown Tuition Centre	Bath & NE Somerset	2 October 2008	2
Barnehurst Junior (Foundation) School	Bexley	9 December 2008	0
Pelham Primary School	Bexley	13 February 2008	10
Bexleyheath School	Bexley	3 October 2007	14
Eastcote Primary School	Bexley	14 September 2007	15
Foundry Primary School	Birmingham	6 June 2008	6
Jervoise Junior & Infant School	Birmingham	21 May 2008	7
Primrose Hill Community School	Birmingham	8 February 2008	10
Yorkmead Junior & Infant School	Birmingham	18 January 2008	11
Yardley Wood Community Primary School	Birmingham	31 January 2008	11
Conway Primary School	Birmingham	22 November 2007	13
William Cowper Primary School	Birmingham	7 June 2007	18
St. Aiden's CE Primary School	Blackburn	28 September 2007	15
SS Simon and Jude CE Primary School	Bolton	4 April 2008	8
Westhoughton Parochial CE Primary	Bolton	20 June 2007	18
Buttershaw Primary School	Bradford	24 September 2008	3
Queensbury School	Bradford	22 May 2008	7
Fearnville Primary School	Bradford	8 November 2007	13
Chalkhill Primary School	Brent	6 December 2007	12
Braintcroft Primary School	Brent	22 November 2007	13
James Dixon Primary School	Bromley	30 April 2008	8
Stewart Fleming Primary School	Bromley	15 February 2008	10
Burwood School	Bromley	19 September 2007	15
Buckingham School	Buckinghamshire	5 March 2008	9
Wingrave CE Combined School	Buckinghamshire	4 February 2008	10
Mount Pellon Junior & infant School	Calderdale	6 December 2007	12
Wistaston Green Primary and Nursery School	Cheshire	22 September 2008	3
St. John's CE Primary School	Cheshire	24 January 2008	11
Saighton CE Primary School	Cheshire	5 December 2007	12
Ecclesbourne Infant School	Croydon	26 November 2008	1
Ashburton Infant School	Croydon	24 September 2008	3
Castle Hill Primary School	Croydon	25 September 2008	3
Oughterside Primary School	Cumbria	11 July 2008	5
West Cumbria Learning Centre	Cumbria	23 June 2008	6
Millom School	Cumbria	28 November 2007	13
The Alfred Barrow School	Cumbria	12 October 2007	14
Ulverston Victoria High School	Cumbria	31 October 2007	14
Ravensdale Junior School	Derby City	16 October 2008	2
Boulton Primary School	Derby City	12 December 2006	24
Tupton Primary School	Derbyshire	11 December 2008	0
Parkside Junior School	Derbyshire	15 May 2008	7
Deincourt Community School	Derbyshire	31 January 2008	11
Caen Community Primary School	Devon	5 June 2008	6
Willowbrook Primary School	Devon	4 March 2008	9
Bridgerule CE Primary School	Devon	29 February 2008	10
Colyton Primary School	Devon	2 November 2007	13
Highfields Primary School	Doncaster	18 November 2008	1
North Doncaster Technology College	Doncaster	21 May 2008	7
Shaftsbury CE Primary School	Dorset	12 December 2007	12
Headlands School and Community Science College	East Riding	21 February 2008	10
Hillcrest School	East Sussex	9 October 2008	2
Bishops Park College	Essex	11 October 2007	14

Schools in special measures for up to two years, 31 December 2008

School	*Local authority*	*Date of inspection*	*Number of months in category*
Alderman Blaxill School	Essex	24 May 2007	19
Blaydon West Primary School	Gateshead	5 October 2007	14
Arthur Dye Primary School	Gloucestershire	5 June 2008	6
Cam House School	Gloucestershire	5 February 2008	10
Charlotte Turner Primary School	Greenwich	18 November 2008	1
Daubeney Primary School	Hackney	6 June 2008	6
Grazebrook Primary School	Hackney	13 March 2008	9
Weston Primary School	Halton	2 October 2008	2
Simms Cross Primary School	Halton	25 April 2007	20
Canberra Primary School	Hammersmith and Fulham	11 July 2008	5
Winklebury Junior School	Hampshire	6 June 2008	6
The Bridge Education Centre	Hampshire	21 May 2008	7
Buriesdon Junior School	Hampshire	7 February 2008	10
Waite End Primary School	Hampshire	2 November 2007	13
Woodcot Primary School	Hampshire	28 September 2007	15
Grangeside (formerly Basingstoke School Plus)	Hampshire	7 December 2006	24
The Arc PRU	Havering	5 December 2007	12
Broadlands Primary School	Herefordshire	22 October 2008	2
Clehonger CE Primary School	Herefordshire	22 November 2007	13
Francis Bacon School	Hertfordshire	15 May 2008	7
Bushey Hall School	Hertfordshire	13 March 2008	9
Sheredes School	Hertfordshire	15 March 2007	21
Edward Pauling Primary School	Hounslow	7 December 2007	12
Hersden Community Primary School	Kent	27 November 2008	1
Raynehurst Primary School	Kent	12 March 2008	9
Lydd Primary School	Kent	27 March 2008	9
Hall Road Primary School	Kingston upon Hull	9 December 2008	0
David Lister School	Kingston upon Hull	3 July 2008	5
Highfield School	Knowsley	4 July 2007	17
North Cliffe School	Lancashire	18 March 2008	9
Shuttleworth College	Lancashire	28 February 2008	10
Fleetwood Flakefleet Primary School	Lancashire	23 January 2008	11
Sabden Primary School	Lancashire	7 December 2007	12
Kingsfold Primary School	Lancashire	25 April 2007	20
City of Preston High School	Lancashire	27 March 2007	21
Hameldon Community College	Lancashire	22 February 2007	22
Allerton Bywater Primary School	Leeds	20 May 2008	7
South Leeds High School	Leeds	7 June 2007	18
Elmete Wood	Leeds	31 January 2007	23
Fulhurst Community College	Leicester City	4 December 2008	0
Braunstone Frith Junior School	Leicester City	18 April 2008	8
Fosse Primary School	Leicester City	23 April 2008	8
Marriott Primary School	Leicester City	30 January 2008	11
Queensmead Community Primary School	Leicester City	31 January 2007	23
Student Support Service PRU	Leicestershire	13 November 2008	1
Morton Trentside Primary School	Lincolnshire	4 July 2008	5
Hartsholme Primary School	Lincolnshire	2 November 2007	13
Belton Lane Community Primary School	Lincolnshire	25 June 2007	18
The Bardney CE & Methodist Primary School	Lincolnshire	24 May 2007	19
Blueberry Park	Liverpool	11 June 2008	6
Parklands High School	Liverpool	10 April 2008	8
St. John's Catholic Primary School	Liverpool	27 September 2007	15
Buglawton Hall School	Manchester	7 October 2008	2
Crab Lane Primary School	Manchester	17 April 2008	8
Moston Fields Primary School	Manchester	31 October 2007	14
Parrs Wood High School	Manchester	31 October 2007	14
Medway Community College	Medway	6 December 2007	12
Hillcross Primary School	Merton	6 February 2008	10
St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School	Merton	10 October 2007	14
The Radcliffe School	Milton Keynes	31 January 2008	11
Throckley Primary School	Newcastle	14 May 2008	7
Westgate Hill Primary School	Newcastle	6 December 2006	24
Richard Rose Central Academy (Cumbria)	Non maintained	11 December 2008	0

Schools in special measures for up to two years, 31 December 2008

School	*Local authority*	*Date of inspection*	*Number of months in category*
RNIB Sunshine Home Northwood (Hillingdon)	Non-maintained	12 December 2007	12
Aslacton Primary School	Norfolk	26 November 2008	1
Morley CE Primary School	Norfolk	5 June 2008	6
Attleborough Junior School	Norfolk	9 January 2008	11
Mundford CE Primary School	Norfolk	22 November 2007	13
Costessey High School	Norfolk	31 October 2007	14
Terrington St. Clement Community School	Norfolk	27 June 2007	18
Buxton Primary School	Norfolk	28 June 2007	18
Central Area PRU	Norfolk	16 May 2007	19
Earlham High School	Norfolk	16 May 2007	19
Swaffham Junior School (ex. South Greenhoe VC CE Middle School	Norfolk	2 March 2007	21
West Earlham Community Junior School	Norfolk	9 March 2007	21
Humberston Comprehensive School	North East Lincs	10 December 2008	0
Scalby School	North Yorkshire	11 November 2008	1
Risedale Sports and Community College	North Yorkshire	30 April 2008	8
The Wensleydale School	North Yorkshire	17 January 2008	11
Mill Hill Community Primary School	North Yorkshire	15 March 2007	21
Rushden Community College	Northamptonshire	4 December 2008	0
Warwick Primary School	Northamptonshire	2 October 2008	2
Henry Gotch Primary School	Northamptonshire	9 July 2008	5
St. Mary's CE Primary Sschool	Northamptonshire	15 July 2008	5
Bellinge Primary School	Northamptonshire	6 June 2008	6
St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School	Northamptonshire	11 March 2008	9
Unity College	Northamptonshire	12 February 2008	10
Vernon Terrace Primary School	Northamptonshire	3 October 2007	14
Queen Eleanor Primary School	Northamptonshire	4 October 2007	14
Abington Vale Primary School	Northamptonshire	17 October 2007	14
Sunnyside Primary School	Northamptonshire	18 October 2007	14
Avondale Junior School	Northamptonshire	26 June 2007	18
Blackthorn Primary School	Northamptonshire	25 January 2007	23
Cragside CE Cont Primary School	Northumberland	11 November 2008	1
Blyth Horton Grange First School	Northumberland	21 November 2007	13
West Sleekburn Middle (Sec) School	Northumberland	1 February 2007	22
Newgate Lane Primary School	Nottinghamshire	4 December 2008	0
Sutton Road Primary School	Nottinghamshire	22 October 2008	2
Magnus C of E School	Nottinghamshire	16 May 2008	7
Ethel Wainwright Primary School	Nottinghamshire	25 January 2008	11
Oak Tree Primary School	Nottinghamshire	5 December 2007	12
Thameside Primary School	Oxfordshire	18 January 2008	11
Dashwood School	Oxfordshire	29 November 2007	13
St John Fisher RC School	Peterborough	30 April 2008	8
Winyates Primary School	Peterborough	7 November 2007	13
Canford Heath Middle School	Poole	13 March 2008	9
Learning Support Service	Poole	31 October 2007	14
Cottage Grove Primary School	Portsmouth	19 November 2008	1
Battle Primary School	Reading	30 January 2008	11
Pathways Special School	Redcar and Cleveland	14 March 2007	21
Hollin Primary School	Rochdale	6 November 2008	1
Balderstone Technology College	Rochdale	23 November 2007	13
St. Paul's CE Primary School	Salford	19 June 2008	6
Marlborough Road Primary School	Salford	13 February 2008	10
Deepcar St. John's CE Junior School	Sheffield	8 October 2008	2
Handsworth GrangeSchool	Sheffield	23 September 2008	3
Newfield Secondary School	Sheffield	26 June 2008	6
Bankwood Community Primary School	Sheffield	11 March 2008	9
Highley Community Primary School	Shropshire	4 December 2008	0
The Grange Junior School	Shropshire	27 November 2007	13
Bosworth Wood Primary School	Solihull	23 May 2007	19
Knights Templar CE Methodist Community School	Somerset	21 November 2008	1
The Priory School	Somerset	6 December 2006	24
Newlands Primary School	Southampton	15 May 2008	7
Townsend Primary School	Southwark	15 October 2008	2
Goose Green Primary School	Southwark	4 March 2008	9

Schools in special measures for up to two years, 31 December 2008

School	*Local authority*	*Date of inspection*	*Number of months in category*
Alma Primary School	Southwark	7 November 2007	13
Eveline Lowe Primary School	Southwark	22 February 2007	22
St. James' CE Primary School	St Helens	20 February 2008	10
Merton Bank Primary School	St Helens	25 June 2007	18
Burton Learning Centre	Staffordshire	11 June 2008	6
Billingham Campus School	Stockton on Tees	31 October 2007	14
Sandon Business and Enterprise College	Stoke on Trent	22 October 2008	2
Stoke Minster CE Aided Primary School (was Bishop Stamer CE)	Stoke on Trent	29 January 2008	11
Castle Hill Junior School	Suffolk	19 June 2008	6
Kirkley Middle (Sec) School	Suffolk	6 December 2007	12
Elm Tree Middle (Sec) School	Suffolk	10 May 2007	19
Hylton Red House Primary School	Sunderland	25 June 2008	6
Epsom and Ewell High School	Surrey	20 November 2008	1
St John's CE Community Primary	Surrey	11 September 2007	15
Egerton Park Arts College	Tameside	17 May 2007	19
Southall School	Telford and Wrekin	28 February 2008	10
Chadwell St Mary Primary School	Thurrock	3 July 2007	17
The Grays School Media Arts College	Thurrock	29 June 2007	18
Upton St James CE Primary School	Torbay	15 November 2007	13
The Ruiz Centre	Walsall	2 December 2008	0
Brownhills West Primary School	Walsall	11 March 2008	9
Darlaston Community Science College	Walsall	28 November 2007	13
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	Walsall	21 June 2007	18
Ainslie Wood Primary School	Waltham Forest	10 October 2008	2
The Beaumont School	Waltham Forest	9 January 2007	23
Smallwood Primary School and Language Unit	Wandsworth	24 June 2008	6
Hillbrook School	Wandsworth	23 January 2008	11
Bewsey Lodge Primary School	Warrington	20 November 2008	1
Stockton Heath Primary School	Warrington	30 April 2008	8
Bruche Community Primary School	Warrington	13 September 2007	15
All Saints CE Primary School & Nursery	Warwickshire	24 April 2007	20
John Rankin Junior School	West Berkshire	4 December 2008	0
Denefield School	West Berkshire	4 December 2008	0
The Winchcombe School	West Berkshire	7 February 2008	10
Nyewood C of E Junior School	West Sussex	15 October 2008	2
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Worthing	West Sussex	17 September 2008	3
Out of School Learning Service, Area B	West Sussex	13 February 2008	10
Landgate School, Bryn	Wigan	4 December 2008	0
Beech Hill Community Primary School	Wigan	16 April 2008	8
Montrose	Wigan	31 January 2008	11
Upavon Primary School	Wiltshire	17 January 2008	11
St Michael's CE Aided Primary School	Wiltshire	10 July 2007	17
Wingfield CE Primary School	Wiltshire	13 June 2007	18
Lickhill Primary School	Worcestershire	4 December 2008	0
Evesham, Simon de Montford Middle School	Worcestershire	15 November 2007	13
Elgar Technology College	Worcestershire	22 February 2007	22

Schools in special measures between two and three years, 31 December 2008

School name	*LA Area*	*Date of inspection*	*Number of months in category*
Horton Grange Primary School	Bradford	30 November 2006	25
St. Catherine's Catholic High School	Calderdale	14 September 2006	27
Maidenhill School	Gloucestershire	23 November 2006	25
Cherryfield Primary School	Knowsley	17 October 2006	26
St. James CE VA Primary School	Northamptonshire	30 November 2006	25

Science: GCE A-Level

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people took one or more science A-levels in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [249848]

Jim Knight: The information is given in the following table:

Number of pupils entered for at least one Science A level

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	221	205	225	220	241
Tees Valley District	672	667	644	619	701
North East	2,455	2,461	2,308	2,337	2,419
England	56,386	58,167	56,072	56,570	58,976

Notes:
1. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds (age at start of academic year, i.e. 31 August) in all maintained schools and colleges.
2. Figures include achievements in Biological, Human Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Single Award Science, Electronics, Environmental Science, Geology and Applied Science.

Source:
School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables data.

Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools do not have specialist status; and if he will make a statement. [241633]

Jim Knight: There are currently 234 maintained secondary schools which are not specialist and which are eligible to apply to join the specialist schools programme.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 755-56W, on special educational needs, what the names are of the four schools referred to in the answer. [260245]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the four schools referred to in the answer is shown in the following table.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[1, 2] schools with more than 20 per cent. of pupils with statements of special educational needs[3] position as at January 2008

Name of school	*Local authority*	*Number of pupils with statements of special educational need[3]*	*Percentage of pupils with statements of special educational need[3]*
Foresters Primary School	Sutton	50	20.6
The Mailing School	Kent	90	22.0
The Grange Primary School	Sefton	60	22.5
Pinewood Infant School	Hampshire	20	23.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils with statements of special educational needs consequent upon behavioural, emotional and social difficulties attended *(a)* special schools and *(b)* mainstream schools in each year since 1997. [271829]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is provided in the table. Information on pupils with statements of SEN and their main or primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need was collected for the first time in 2004.

Proportion of pupils[1] with a statement of SEN for behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD)[2] attending special schools[3] and mainstream schools[4], as at January each year, England

	Percentage of pupils with BESD attending:	
	Special schools	*Mainstream schools*
2004	37.3	62.7
2005	37.8	62.2
2006	39.0	61.0
2007	41.3	58.7
2008	42.4	57.6

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Pupils with a statement of SEN provide information on their primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need, information on primary need only is given here.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes maintained nursery, primary, and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies.
Source:
School Census.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which special schools *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have visited since June 2007; and on what date each such visit took place. [273285]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 7 May 2009]*: The following table shows special schools visited by Ministers at the Department for Children, Schools and Families since June 2007 to date.

Ministers have also visited special schools in their capacity as constituency MPs. In addition some of the mainstream schools they have visited also had excellent specialist units to support children with special educational needs.

Date	*Schools visited*
Ed Balls	
3 April 2008	Michael Tippett School, London
23 October 2008	Lyndale School, Wirral
11 May 2009	Two Rivers High School, Tamworth
Beverley Hughes	
12 June 2008	New Woodlands Special School, Bromley
Jim Knight	
7 May 2008	Wilson Stuart Special School, Birmingham

Date	*Schools visited*
3 July 2008	Springfield Special School, Oxford
10 September 2008	Brislington Enterprise College, Bristol
23 April 2009	The Orchards School, Greenfold School, Bolton
Sarah McCarthy-Fry	
22 October 2008	New Bridge School, Oldham
9 February 2009	Treehouse School, London
18 March 2009	Linden Lodge School, London

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1352-54W, on special educational needs, how many of the pupils in schools in special measures were in *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools and *(c)* schools in each local authority area. [274770]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 414W, on special educational needs, what funds have been allocated to each stream for 2009-10; what formulae are used to attribute funds to non-maintained special schools from each stream; by what means non-maintained special schools became eligible for the School Travel Grant; and how many non-maintained special schools are eligible for the School Travel Grant. [275389]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of estimates of amounts to be paid to non-maintained special schools in respect of funding streams for the 2009/10 financial year, together with the formulae and/or calculations used have been placed in the House Libraries. All NMSSs are eligible for a School Travel Plan grant on the condition that an approved travel plan has been submitted and quality assured by their local school travel adviser. In the 2008/09 financial year school travel grant was paid to four NMSSs.

Special Educational Needs: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) at which mainstream schools attended by pupils with statements of special educational need no such pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in 2008; [271481]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009 to question 265674, what the names of the 43 schools are; and in which local authority area each is. [271035]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The previous answer explained that there were 43 maintained mainstream schools with 10 or more pupils with statements of SEN at the end of key stage 4, where no pupils with statements of SEN achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C or the equivalent in 2008.

The 43 schools were:

School name	*Local authority*
Abbeydale Grange School	Sheffield
Ashford Christ Church, Church of England Maths and Computing Specialist College	Kent
Axton Chase School	Kent
Babington Community Technology College	Leicester
Bishopsgarth School	Stockton-on-Tees
Bristnall Hall Technology College	Sandwell
Corby Community College	Northamptonshire
Crown Hills Community College	Leicester
Filton High School	South Gloucestershire
Grange Technology College	Bradford
Hampton Community College	Richmond upon Thames
Hamstead Hall Community Learning Centre	Birmingham
Heston Community School	Hounslow
Highgate Wood Secondary School	Haringey
Holywells High School	Suffolk
Honiton Community College	Devon
Houghton Kepier Sports College: A Foundation School	Sunderland
Kingsford Community School	Newham
Knutsford High School	Cheshire
Lincoln Christ's Hospital School	Lincolnshire
Littlehampton Community School, The	West Sussex
Longcroft School	East Riding of Yorkshire
Middlefield School of Technology	Lincolnshire
New College Leicester	Leicester
New Line Learning Academy	Kent
Newsome High School and Sports College	Kirklees
Oxford School	Oxfordshire
Parkfield High School	Wolverhampton
Sandown High School	Isle of Wight
Sedgehill School	Lewisham
Stantonbury Campus	Milton Keynes
Sudbury Upper School and Arts College	Suffolk
Swanlea School	Tower Hamlets
The Kingstone School	Barnsley
The Voyager School	Peterborough
Thomas Clarkson Community College	Cambridgeshire
Trinity C of E High School	Manchester
Ullswater Community College	Cumbria
Unity City Academy	Middlesbrough
Vermuyden School	East Riding of Yorkshire
Weavers School	Northamptonshire
Westbourne Sports College	Suffolk
Wreake Valley Community College	Leicestershire

There are many more schools with less than 10 pupils with statements of SEN where no pupils with statements of SEN achieved five or more GCSEs A*-C. We have used a standard cut-off of 10 pupils with statement of SEN in relation to attainment data to prevent possible disclosure of personal information.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* schools, *(b)* academies, *(c)* further education colleges and *(d)* sixth form colleges participated in consortia responsible for diploma courses in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. [273517]

Jim Knight: The information is available on an academic year basis starting in September 2008 with delivery of the first phase of diplomas. The latest information provided by consortia is that: 1,382 secondary schools, 56 academies, 124 further education colleges and 51 sixth form colleges were involved in the delivery of diplomas from September 2008.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* schools and *(b)* consortia in each local authority are offering at least one diploma course to students. [274376]

Jim Knight: We do not have information centrally on which schools are offering the Diploma to their learners. Information on which consortia in each local authority were approved to offer the diploma from September 2008 is as follows:

Consortia approved for a 2008 start through Gateway[1]

Eastern England

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Cambridgeshire	Cambridge 14-19 Area Partnership
Cambridgeshire	HSEP
Hertfordshire	Dacorum SAPG
Hertfordshire	North Herts SAPG
Hertfordshire	SE Herts SAPG
Luton	Campus Luton Partnership
Norfolk	Extended Rural Norfolk Federation
Norfolk	Norwich city (Open Opportunity)
Southend-on-Sea	Southend
Suffolk	North Suffolk

[1] Since Gateway 1 a number of consortia have merged or changed names. This list is derived from the original applications.

East Midlands

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Derby	Derby City 14-19 Partnership
Derbyshire	Ripley and Heanor Learning Consortia
Leicestershire	Melton and Belvoir
Leicestershire	Melton and South Charnwood
Leicestershire	North West Leics
Lincolnshire	Boston
Lincolnshire	Grantham Partnership
Lincolnshire	Lincs East Partnership
Lincolnshire	Sleaford
Lincolnshire	South Holland
Lincolnshire	Wolds
Northamptonshire	East Northamptonshire
Northamptonshire	Kettering
Northamptonshire	Northampton Town
Nottingham City	Nottingham City
Nottinghamshire	Ashfield District
Nottinghamshire	Bassetlaw
Nottinghamshire	Mansfield Learning Partnership
Nottinghamshire	Newark and Sherwood ASG
Rutland	Rutland 14-19 Partnership

London

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Barking and Dagenham	Barking and Dagenham
Bromley	The Bromley 14-19 Collaborative
Croydon	Borough Wide Consortium
Ealing	West London Consortium
Hackney	Hackney Diploma 2009 Consortium
Hammersmith and Fulham	Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey	Haringey 14-19 Partnership
Harrow	Harrow Collegiate
Hillingdon	Hillingdon Consortium
Hounslow	Hounslow 14-19 Partnership
Islington	Islington 14-19 Partnership
Lambeth (joint Southwark)	7 Schools LCM The Lambeth Consortium
Lewisham	Lewisham
Newham	Newham 14-19 Partnership
Southwark	Southwark 14-19 Partnership
Tower Hamlets	The Hub
Waltham Forest	London Borough of Waltham Forest
Wandsworth	Wandsworth 14-19 Partnership

North East

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Durham	Derwentside Consortium
Gateshead	Gateshead 14-19 Partnership
Hartlepool	Hartlepool 14-19 Partnership
Middlesbrough	Middlesbrough Learning Partnership
Newcastle Upon Tyne	Newcastle City Consortium
North Tyneside	North Tyneside 14-19 Learning Partnership
Sunderland	Sunderland 14-19 Partnership

North West

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Blackburn with Darwen	Blackburn with Darwen 14-19 Partnership
Bolton	Bolton LA
Bury	Bury Learning Partnership
Cheshire	Crewe and Nantwich
Cheshire	East Cheshire 14-19 Diploma Consortium
Cheshire	Vale Royal Diploma Consortium
Cumbria	Furness
Cumbria	Furness 14-19 Partnership
Halton	Halton 14-19 Strategic Partnership
Knowsley	Knowsley 14-19 Collegiate Partnership
Lancashire	Burnley Pendle
Lancashire	Chorley and South Ribble
Lancashire	Hyndburn, Rossendale and Ribble Valley
Lancashire	Lancaster and Morecambe
Liverpool	Liverpool
Manchester	Manchester 14-19 Team
Oldham	OLLP Business
Rochdale	Rochdale Consortium
Salford	Salford 14-19 Partnership
Sefton	North Sefton
St. Helens	St. Helen's
Tameside	Tameside 14-19
Trafford	Trafford
Warrington	Warrington 14-19 Partnership

South East

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Buckinghamshire	Wycombe Consortium
East Sussex	Eastbourne and Hailsham Federation

South East

Local authority	*Consortium name*
East Sussex	Hastings and Rother Local Area
East Sussex	Lewes Rural Local Area Partnership Board
East Sussex	Lewes Rural Local Area Partnership
East Sussex	Wealden Local Area Partnership Board
Medway	Medway
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes
Oxfordshire	East Oxon 14-19 Consortium
Reading	Reading
Surrey	Elmbridge 14-19 Consortium
Surrey	Guildford 14-19 Partnership
Surrey	Spelthorne
West Sussex	WS Area B
Brighton and Hove	Brighton and Hove 14-19 Partnership Board
East Sussex	Lewes Rural Local Area Partnership Board
East Sussex	Western Coastal Local Area Partnership Board
Hampshire	Basingstoke 14-19 Consortium
Hampshire	Eastleigh Consortium
Hampshire	Rushmoor and Hart
Kent	Dartford Wilmington
Kent	Dover Deal and Sandwich
Kent	Gravesham 14-19 Consortium
Kent	Thanet 14-19 Consortium
Oxfordshire	North Oxfordshire 14-19 Partnership
Reading	Reading
Surrey	Surrey Heath
Surrey	Woking Federation
West Sussex	WS Area A
West Sussex	WS Area B

South West

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Cornwall	Cornwall Collegiate
Dorset	Central Dorset Partnership
Dorset	Chesil
Dorset	North Dorset
Gloucestershire	Cheltenham
North Somerset	North Somerset Consortium
Plymouth City	City of Plymouth 14-19 Diploma Partnership
Somerset	Sedgemoor
South Gloucestershire	Kingswood
Swindon	Swindon 14-19 Partnership
Torbay	Torbay 14-19 Learning Partnership
Wiltshire	West Wiltshire Federation

West Midlands

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Birmingham	Birmingham South West Collegiate: Lordswood Girls
Birmingham	Central Network
Birmingham	North Area Network
Birmingham	South Network
Coventry	North East Federation
Coventry	North West Federation
Dudley	The Halesowen Education Trust
Shropshire	NW Shropshire
Solihull	Solihull Consortium
Staffordshire	Chase Collegiate
Staffordshire	E Staffs 14-19 Collegiate
Staffordshire	Tamworth
Staffordshire	Tamworth Partnership
Stoke on Trent	Stoke on Trent
Walsall	WALCON
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton
Worcestershire	CONTINU
Worcestershire	FORWARD Consortium

Yorkshire and the Humber

Local authority	*Consortium name*
Barnsley	Barnsley Diploma Consortium
Bradford	Bradford Confederations
Calderdale	Campus Calderdale
Hull (Kingston Upon)	Hull 14-19 Partnership
Kirklees	Kirklees Collegiates
Leeds	Central Leeds Construction
Leeds	Leeds Diploma Consortium
North East Lincolnshire	North East Lincolnshire Partnership
North Yorkshire	Ryedale Area Learning Partnership
Rotherham	Rotherham
Sheffield	Sheffield 14-19 Partnership
Sheffield	Sheffield CYPD
Wakefield	Wakefield
York City	City of York Partnership

Teachers: Males

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many and what proportion of maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools fewer than (i) 1 per cent., (ii) 10 per cent., (iii) 20 per cent. and (iv) 30 per cent. of the fully qualified teaching staff were male in each year since 1997. [271479]

Jim Knight: The information cannot be provided for all the years requested on the grounds of disproportionate cost. 1997 and 2008 figures are provided within the following table.

The following table shows how many and what proportion of local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England employed fewer than 1 per cent., 10 per cent., 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. qualified full-time equivalent male teachers, January 1997 and 2008.

Number and proportion of maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools with fewer than 1 per cent., 10 per cent., 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. full-time equivalent qualified male teachers, January 1997 and 2008, England

	1997				*2008*			
	Nursery/Primary		*Secondary*[1]		*Nursery/Primary*		*Secondary*[1]	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Less than 1 per cent.	5,280	27.9	0	0.0	4,670	26.5	[illegible]	0.1
Less than 10 per cent.	6,760	35.7	[illegible]	0.1	6,800	38.5	10	0.3

Number and proportion of maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools with fewer than 1 per cent., 10 per cent., 20 per cent. and 30 per cent. full-time equivalent qualified male teachers, January 1997 and 2008, England

	1997				*2008*			
	Nursery/Primary		*Secondary*[1]		*Nursery/Primary*		*Secondary*[1]	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Less than 20 per cent.	11,920	63.0	80	2.1	12,390	70.2	70	2.2
Less than 30 per cent.	16,210	85.6	280	7.9	15,930	90.2	360	11.0

[1] Excludes academies. [2] Between one and four schools. *Note:* Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source: School Census

Teachers: Redundancy

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time teaching staff have been made redundant in each of the last 10 years. [272653]

Jim Knight: The information is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Training

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* teachers' professional bodies and *(b)* industry in respect of teachers' continuing professional development. [274705]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families regularly meets with representatives of teachers' professional bodies and industry to discuss a range of issues. Most recently this has included attending the conferences of ASCL, ATL, NAHT and NASUWT; and meetings with Agony Aunts and Kids in the Middle; Franklin Covey and the Association of Colleges.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of graduates enrolling on a postgraduate certification of education course held a *(a)* first, *(b)* upper second, *(c)* lower second and *(d)* third class first degree in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [275040]

Jim Knight: The following tables show the number of first year trainees for each academic year between 1998/99 and 2006/07 by the classification of their first degree for:

1. Postgraduate ITT trainees
2. Employment Based Routes (EBR) trainees.

Information relating to the qualifications on entry to mainstream ITT courses is only available from 1998/99 onwards. The same information for trainees on employment based routes was only collected from 2001/02 onwards. Figures relating to 2007/08 will be available in July 2009.

Proportion of postgraduate trainees in their first year of mainstream ITT courses by classification of first degree[1,2], 1998/99 to 2006/07, England

Percentage

	1998/99	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
1st	5.4	5.5	5.8	5.7	6.4	7.0	7.7	8.1	8.1
2:1	45.9	45.8	46.4	47.3	48.5	49.0	49.8	50.7	50.7
2:2	36.8	37.4	36.7	36.7	35.7	35.3	33.8	32.7	33.8
3	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.4
Pass	4.0	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.1	2.5	2.4	2.0
Total with 2:1 and above	51.3	51.3	52.2	53.0	54.9	56.0	57.5	58.8	58.8
Total with 2:2 and above	88.0	88.7	88.9	89.7	90.6	91.3	91.4	91.5	92.6
Class not known/ undefined	4.0	3.9	3.4	3.2	2.3	1.8	2.6	2.6	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of first year trainees on postgraduate ITT courses[3]	16,680	16,740	18,200	19,790	21,240	23,510	23,580	23,240	22,320

[1] Includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and Open University but excludes employment based routes and cases where QTS is granted on assessment without a course of ITT.
[2] Those training through the Fast Track programme (which ran between 2001/02 and 2005/06) are included.
[3] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
TDA's Performance Profiles

Proportion of postgraduate trainees in their first year of employment based routes to ITT by classification of first degree[1] 1998/99 to 2006/07, England

Percentage

	1998/99	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
1st	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.2	8.3	7.2	8.5	8.6	9.3
2:1	n/a	n/a	n/a	32.8	40.2	40.1	41.0	44.2	47.6
2:2	n/a	n/a	n/a	28.5	32.0	35.2	34.5	34.0	31.7

Proportion of postgraduate trainees in their first year of employment based routes to ITT by classification of first degree[1] 1998/99 to 2006/07, England

Percentage

	1998/99	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
3	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.9	5.7	4.9
Pass	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.9	9.1	8.0	10.1	7.5	6.5
Total with 2:1 and above	n/a	n/a	n/a	39.0	48.5	47.4	49.5	52.8	56.9
Total with 2:2 and above	n/a	n/a	n/a	67.6	80.5	82.5	84.0	86.8	88.6
Class not known/ undefined	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.6	4.9	4.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Total	n/a	n/a	n/a	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of first year trainees on postgraduate ITT courses[2]	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,740	3,560	4,940	4,970	5,250	5,230

n/a = not available

[1] Excludes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and Open University and cases where QTS is granted on assessment without a course of ITT.

[2] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA's Performance Profiles

Teachers: Vacancies

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the school teacher vacancy rate was in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [275039]

Jim Knight: Full-time vacancy rates in local authority maintained schools in each of the last five years can be found in Table 6 of the Statistical First Release "School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2009 (Provisional)". This can be accessed from the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000844

Truancy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school days were lost to truancy in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [272969]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is collected on authorised and unauthorised absence.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy. Information collected by the Department on absence is a more comprehensive measure of children's missed schooling. Our focus is on reducing all forms of absence, not just a small subset. The issue is not whether the pupil had permission to be absent; it is how much absence the pupil has.

The number of days lost due to absence is shown in the following table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2], number of days of absence[3], 2007/08, England

	Number of days	*Absence rate*
Authorised absence	50,057,570	5.28
Unauthorised absence	9,627,620	1.01
Overall absence	59,685,190	6.29
Total possible days	948,908,914	—

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[3] Includes pupils age five to 15 who were on roll for at least one session from the start of the school year up until 23 May 2008, excluding boarders.

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England have appeared in court on charges related to unauthorised absences from school of their children in the last (i) six, (ii) 12 and (iii) 24 months. [277439]

Jim Knight: The Ministry of Justice collects data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data that some data are collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of parents prosecuted by local authorities in England and Lancashire for failing to secure their children's regular school attendance between 2006 and 2007 (latest available data) is detail in the following table.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Education Act 1996 S.444, in the Lancashire police force area, and England, 2006 to 2007[1, 2]

		Lancashire police force area		*England*	
Statute	*Offence description*	*2006*	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Education Act 1996 S.444 (1)(8)	Failure to secure regular attendance at school.	182	249	4,437	5,903

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Education Act 1996 S.444, in the Lancashire police force area, and England, 2006 to 2007[1,2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Lancashire police force area*		*England*	
		2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Education Act 1996 S.444(1)(1a)(8a) added by Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 S.72.	Parent knows that their child is failing to attend school regularly and fails without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school.	46	43	1,559	1,840

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Young People: Voluntary Work

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 598-9W, on young people: voluntary work, what his most recent estimate is of the average cost of a placement as part of the Entry to Employment programme. [276103]

Jim Knight: Funding for the Entry to Employment programme will be administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested is with regard to an operational matter for the LSC, I have asked Geoffrey Russell, the acting LSC chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the information requested. I will arrange for a copy of his letter to be placed in the House Libraries.

Young People's Learning Agency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the Young People's Learning Agency to be set up; and what mechanisms there will be for the agency to co-operate with specialist independent post-16 institutions. [275806]

Jim Knight: Independent Specialist providers of post-16 education and training play an important role in providing education for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, often with very specific needs and requirements. We recognise the value of having a diverse mix of high quality providers that ensures that our young people are able to access the right course or provision to help them realise their goals and ambitions. We do not feel it is appropriate to centrally guarantee funding streams for particular institutions. Local authorities will need to work in partnership with each other, providers and young people and their families to assess the level of demand in their area and to commission suitable provision that meets young people's needs.

Provision has been made in clause 40 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Bill to require local authorities, when commissioning provision, to take account of the quality of provision being secured and encourage diversity in the range of education and training on offer to support learner choice. In addition, in deciding whether education and training is suitable to meet young people's reasonable needs, local authorities will be required to have regard to any learning difficulties the persons may have.

We believe that the transfer to local authorities will have significant benefits in terms of a more informed and integrated commissioning of their services leading to better outcomes for learners. Arrangements are being developed, in consultation with stakeholders, that recognise that independent specialist colleges will often work across local authority boundaries and nationally, and consideration is being given to the need to minimise bureaucracy for these and other learning providers. These arrangements will feed into the statutory guidance being developed for local authorities in respect of their commissioning responsibilities which the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) will publish when it comes into being in April 2010, subject to the passage of the ASCL Bill.

We do not expect the YPLA to be involved in the commissioning of learning provision in the vast majority of cases, although there may be some circumstances where it may need to commission provision directly, for instance:

where a local authority is failing or looks likely to fail in fulfilling its duties under clauses 40 and 47 of the Bill to commission suitable education or training;

with a small number of national providers for whom it may be appropriate to commission at a national rather than local level; and

where the sub regional group (SRG) identifies that they are not yet ready to take on the role.

In those cases, the YPLA will need to engage those providers, including specialist colleges, to ensure that they are commissioned effectively in response to the needs of young people.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 2 June 2009

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what projects money was spent under his Department's bilateral programme in each of the last five years in each country where expenditure under the programme was under £50,000 in 2007-08; how much was spent on each project; and if he will make a statement. [276903]

Mr. Michael Foster: Detailed information on individual DFID projects is publicly available through two international portals: AiDA—the Development Gateway and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Each portal can be accessed through the following links:

AiDA:

http://aida.developmentgateway.org/index.do

DAC:

http://stats.oecd.org/qwids/

Further information on DFID funded projects, including spend, will be made available on the DFID website later this year.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the procurement of antiretroviral drugs through the Global Fund and other mechanisms is timely and efficient. [276323]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is aware that some countries supported by the Global Fund are at risk from health facility stores temporarily running out of essential antiretroviral drugs (stock-outs). DFID officials have spoken to the fund's Secretariat about this, including recently at the Global Fund's Executive Board (5-6 May 2009). Formally, the UK supported a resolution made at the board meeting which obliges the fund's Secretariat to address this issue urgently, to report on whether its existing procedures are adequate, and to propose solutions which would minimise the risks of disruptions to treatment both in the short term and on an ongoing basis. In developing countries such as Zimbabwe, DFID is also assisting, where possible, in the provision of drugs while problems in Global Fund supported programmes are being addressed.

Developing Countries: Young People

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account his Department's forthcoming White Paper will take of *(a)* the number of children and young people in developing countries and *(b)* the relationships between the needs of children and young people in developing countries and (i) women, (ii) families, (iii) disabled people and (iv) others in those countries. [274681]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has recently commissioned analysis of the impacts of the current economic crisis including food, fuel and financial aspects on women, families, young people and the disabled in developing countries. This analysis will help inform the narrative in the forthcoming White Paper.

DFID recognises that children and young people are the majority population in many developing countries and that they have a vital role in helping achieve the millennium development goals. The White Paper will take these issues fully into account.

Overseas Aid: Nutrition

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what spending priority areas his Department's Nutritional Task Team have established for 2009-10. [277137]

Mr. Michael Foster: As a result of the findings of the Nutrition Task Team, the Department for International Development (DFID) is strengthening its capacity and setting up permanent capacity, in London and in selected country offices, to help respond to the ongoing global nutrition crisis. We will be publishing a new nutrition strategy in the autumn. Key priorities will be to: build international support, co-ordination and coherence; scale-up programmes in selected partner countries; strengthen DFID capacity to increase and track nutrition impact and spend; and build evidence and demonstrate results.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what budget his Department has allocated to its nutrition task team for 2009-10. [277138]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The nutrition team for 2009-10 is being put in place now. We expect two full-time staff to start work shortly in London, supported by staff from country offices allocating a proportion of their time. We will ensure that the team has the resources it needs to develop a sound strategy. This will help provide the basis for making further resource allocation decisions.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which countries his Department's nutrition task team has worked with in 2009 to date. [277145]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We will work with countries where the burden of malnutrition is most severe, and where the Department for International Development (DFID) has comparative advantage within a division of labour with other donors. Initial work is under way in India and Bangladesh where we have focal advisers in place and leading nutrition agendas.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which contribution his Department's nutrition task team is making to the achievement of Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals. [277146]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Nutrition is a foundation for the attainment of all the Millennium Development Goals. We recognise that progress towards the MDG 1c indicator to halve the rates of under-nutrition in children under five years by 2015 remains severely off-track. Our work on nutrition is directly aimed to help focus the Department's efforts on MDG 1c.

Overseas Aid: Water

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to promote the Global Framework for Action for water and sanitation to his counterparts in countries with bilateral agencies. [276573]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) on 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 661W, which highlights our collaboration with the Netherlands. I can confirm that I will be shortly contacting other European Union bilateral agencies to encourage their support for the Global Framework for Action.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to assist refugees in the *(a)* northern and *(b)* eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. [276855]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 86WS, regarding the internally displaced in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka.

NORTHERN IRELAND

AccessNI

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been undertaken of the performance of AccessNI; and if he will make a statement. [277257]

Paul Goggins: Since mid-December 2008 AccessNI has continued to meet its service standards. Latest information on service standards is published each week on the "latest news" section of its website:

www.accessni.gov.uk

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Pay

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the salary of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is. [276794]

Paul Goggins: The salary of the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland is £183,954 per year with effect from 1 September 2008.

Robbery: Firearms

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cash in transit robberies have taken place in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many of these involved *(a)* firearms and *(b)* imitation firearms. [277324]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Leader of the House whether it is the Government's policy that hon. Members who are married to or in a civil partnership with a member of the House of Lords will be eligible for a second home allowance. [277699]

Chris Bryant: By tradition the two Houses of Parliament have made separate financial provisions for their Members. The Government believe that all MPs' and peers' pay, allowances and pensions should be set, administered, monitored and audited by an independent Parliamentary Standards Authority.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will place in the Library a copy of internal notes made at its meetings between 3 July 2008 and 1 April 2009 relating to hon. Members' expenses and the resolutions of the House of 3 July 2008. [276857]

Nick Harvey: Members' expenses are a matter for the Members Estimate Committee.

SCOTLAND

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277172]

Ann McKechin: Euro Ministers are responsible for euro preparations in their Department and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Internet

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the implications for the revenue of the British media market of Google's share of the online advertising market; and if he will make a statement. [276978]

Barbara Follett: The Government recognise the increasing importance of online advertising revenues to the UK's media markets. It represents the fastest growing advertising medium in the UK. While the impact of this growth is principally a matter for the market, the Government, through their Creative Economy Strategy, continues to encourage the development of a strong and competitive advertising sector. The strategy, published in 2008, sets out a range of initiatives, such as encouraging advertisers to recruit from a more diverse range of backgrounds and disciplines, that will help ensure the continued success of the UK's advertising industries as a whole.

Arts: Apprentices

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has allocated for the creation of 5,000 apprenticeships in the creative industries as outlined in Creative Britain: new talents for the new economy. [277133]

Andy Burnham: My Department is working with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills to influence the funding of over £1 billion allocated to delivering apprenticeships across England. Since the publication of Creative Britain, my Department has also worked with the sector skills councils and the Arts Council England to increase apprenticeships across the creative industries with over 150 employers signed up to offer places. My Department is currently developing a programme of activity to help support the creation of apprenticeships for the creative industries.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many actions under employment law have been brought against the *(a)* Arts Council England, *(b)* Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, *(c)* Sport England, *(d)* UK Sport, *(e)* English Heritage, *(f)* Heritage Lottery Fund and *(g)* Big Lottery Fund in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many were contested at an employment tribunal. [277449]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Each of our non-departmental public bodies has their own HR function and have their own procedures and processes in place. The Department does not collect information on actions brought against our non-departmental public bodies.

Olympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials in *(a)* his Department, excluding the Government Olympic Executive, *(b)* UK Sport and *(c)* Sport England are working on matters connected with the London 2012 Olympics. [277271]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The 2012 Olympics and Paralympics have an impact on the work of a great many staff working in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and our non-departmental public bodies (NDPB's). We do not collect data centrally on this.

Pay Television

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects Ofcom to publish the remedies determined as a result of its investigation into the pay television market. [277438]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The pay-TV market investigation is the responsibility of Ofcom. Ofcom expect to make a statement on their progress and current findings by the end of June.

Pay Television: Sports

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on choice of sports pay television providers. [277440]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* I have not received any recent representations on this issue.

Royal Parks Agency: Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many breaches of security have been reported at the Royal Parks Agency in the last five years; and what procedures the agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276948]

Barbara Follett: The following information has been provided by the Royal Parks Agency.

There have been eight known breaches of security within the past five years, none involving the loss of personal data.

Any loss of personal data would be handled in accordance with Cabinet Office procedures.

TRANSPORT

Bourbon Dolphin

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the report of the capsize of the tug, Bourbon Dolphin. [277758]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Bourbon Dolphin was a Norwegian anchor-handling vessel operating outside UK territorial waters. Consequently, no investigation of the incident was undertaken by the United Kingdom. However, I understand that a report has been produced by the Norwegian authorities.

c2c

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with c2c on the timetable for negotiations on its train operator franchise; and if he will make a statement. [276819]

Paul Clark: The current c2c franchise expires in May 2011. No recent discussions have taken place with c2c on the timetable for re-letting the franchise.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* punctuality and *(b)* adequacy of the capacity of the c2c Fenchurch Street service; and if he will make a statement. [276820]

Paul Clark: Punctuality on the network as a whole has risen by 10 per cent. in the last five years to 90.6 per cent. 95.4 per cent of c2c trains, which serve Fenchurch Street station, were punctual in the last year (within five minutes).

The Department for Transport measures c2c's capacity for peak arrivals into Fenchurch Street (7 am to 9.59 am) and peak departures from Fenchurch Street (4 pm to 6.59 pm) against their approved train plan.

Departmental Air Travel

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* economy, *(b)* business and *(c)* first class flights in each financial year since 2001. [276489]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether costs arising from systems modifications in his Department's Shared Service Centre to accommodate the workings of the flexible benefits project will be met from the flexible benefit projects budget. [277706]

Mr. Hoon: These costs will be met from the flexible benefit projects budget.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274311]

Mr. Hoon: The Department of Transport was formed in 2002. A total of 522 members of staff have been dismissed. Of these 81 can be identified as dismissed for under-performance. A breakdown is provided in the following table but it does not include the Government Car and Despatch Agency, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency or the Highways Agency; figures which can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Dismissed for under-performance	*Total dismissed*
2009	12	18
2008	17	89
2007	8	72
2006	12	93
2005	12	82
2004	12	93
2003	8	75
Total	81	522

Departmental Hotels

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* staff (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad in each of the last five years. [276490]

Mr. Hoon: Most hotel costs across the Department for Transport are not recorded separately from subsistence expenses. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years. [277149]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is not held centrally, or recorded in a way to readily identify these categories of advertising expenditure, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Gifts

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [277336]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 606-7W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the provision of total reward statements to *(a)* staff in his central Department and *(b)* other departmental staff. [277705]

Mr. Hoon: Total reward statements are planned for release from 23 September 2009 onwards, for both the central Department and its agencies.

Departmental Research

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on research and development in each of the last 10 years; and what the 10 projects on which the highest expenditure was incurred were. [276492]

Mr. Hoon: Information about Departments' annual spend on research and development is published by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) in Table 3.2 of Science Engineering and Technology (SET) Statistics. This is available on the DIUS website.

The project information requested is not readily available. For example, some projects are collaboratively funded; some are interdependent with others; and projects can take a number of years to complete. However, from the information readily available, the 10 requested projects since the Department for Transport was formed in May 2002 are:

1. Co-operative Crash Injury Study—Phases 5-8 (£12,900,000)
2. On-the-Spot Accident Investigation—Phases 1-3 (£8,018,000)
3. The Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation Environment (£4,084,000)
4. Compatibility of Cars in Crashes (£2,979,000)

5. European New Car Secondary Safety Assessment Testing Programme (£2,700,000)

6. Compatibility and Frontal and Side Impact Test Procedures (£2,272,000)

7. Intelligent Speed Adaptation (£2,015,000)

8. Protective helmets for motor and pedal cyclists (£1,720,000)

9. Mobile Environmental Sensing System (£1,716,000)

10. New Car Primary Safety Assessment Programme—Phase 2 (£1,501,000)

These figures represent the total departmental value of the contracts let, some of which are still open.

Departmental Travel

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on car hire in each year since 2001. [276453]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is as follows:

£

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Department for Transport	0	156,918	188,144	208,126	353,758	220,352	219,380
Executive Agencies	1,045,417	1,806,204	2,002,484	1,966,638	2,378,604	2,465,910	2,740,918

It is not possible to provide costs for the Department for Transport or for the Driver Standards Agency in 2002-03 because the information is not available in a comparable format.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277177]

Mr. Hoon: Euro Ministers are responsible for the preparation of materials relating to their Departments and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of penalty notices for disorder remained unpaid *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months after issue in each of the last five years. [276120]

Mr. Straw: We are not able to identify how many and the percentage of those penalty notices which remain unpaid after *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months, as it is not possible to provide separate enforcement rates for unpaid PNDs once they have been registered as fines by the courts.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice for the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) issued to persons in England and Wales aged 16 and over, by offence type, and the number paid within the suspended enforcement period, for the years 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the following tables 1 to 4.

Under the PND Scheme, recipients have 21 days (the suspended enforcement period) in which either to pay the penalty or opt to have their case heard in court. If no action is taken a fine of one and half times the penalty amount is registered against the recipient.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2004[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued							
Wasting police time	1,171	512	44	362	31	150	13
Misuse of public telecommunications system	117	52	44	36	31	16	14
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	44	18	41	15	34	3	7
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	28,790	14,306	50	10,240	36	4,066	14
Throwing fireworks	177	89	50	72	41	17	10
Drunk and disorderly	26,609	14,927	56	11,050	42	3,877	15
Criminal Damage (under £500)	1,190	681	57	528	44	153	13
Theft (retail under £200)	2,072	870	42	665	32	205	10
Breach of fireworks curfew	12	10	83	9	75	1	8
Possession of category 4 firework	12	5	42	1	8	4	33

Table 1: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2004[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	20	10	50	9	45	1	5
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	113	74	65	62	55	12	11
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	84	55	65	49	58	6	7
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	20	9	45	4	20	5	25
£50 Tickets issued							
Trespass on a railway	96	48	50	30	31	18	19
Throwing stones at a train/railway	66	35	53	27	41	8	12
Drunk in a highway	2,497	1,233	49	860	34	373	15
Consumption of alcohol in public place	485	113	23	82	17	31	6
Depositing and leaving litter	51	25	49	19	37	6	12
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	7	3	43	3	43	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	6	3	50	3	50	—	—
All offences	63,639	33,078	52	24,126	38	8,952	14

	Other outcomes									
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued										
Wasting police time	579	49	15	1	32	3	30	3	3	0
Misuse of public telecommunications system	58	50	2	2	5	4	—	—	—	—
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	22	50	—	—	2	5	1	2	1	2
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	13,125	46	205	1	666	2	366	1	122	0
Throwing fireworks	80	45	1	1	6	3	1	1	—	—
Drunk and disorderly	11,035	41	109	0	346	1	144	1	48	0
Criminal Damage (under £500)	481	40	5	0	14	1	5	0	4	0
Theft (retail under £200)	1,128	54	13	1	30	1	12	1	19	1
Breach of fireworks curfew	2	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of category 4 firework	6	50	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	7	35	—	—	2	10	1	5	—	—
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	10	9	2	2	27	24	—	—	—	—
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	21	25	—	—	8	10	—	—	—	—

			Other outcomes							
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	10	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
£50 Tickets issued										
Trespass on a railway	45	47	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Throwing stones at a train/railway	25	38	—	—	5	8	1	2	—	—
Drunk in a highway	1,166	47	6	0	75	3	9	0	8	0
Consumption of alcohol in public place	349	72	2	0	15	3	4	1	2	0
Depositing and leaving litter	25	49	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	4	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	2	33	—	—	1	17	—	—	—	—
All offences	28,180	44	360	1	1,237	2	575	1	209	0

— = nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis unit.

Table 2: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2005[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence code and description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued							
Wasting police time	2,525	1,199	47	890	35	309	12
Misuse of public telecommunications system	405	238	59	175	43	63	16
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	92	49	53	35	38	14	15
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	64,007	33,915	53	24,357	38	9,558	15
Throwing fireworks	642	347	54	253	39	94	15
Drunk and disorderly	37,038	20,862	56	15,420	42	5,442	15
Sale of alcohol to under 18	2,058	1,805	88	1,460	71	345	17
Purchasing alcohol for under 18	170	106	62	82	48	24	14
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises	83	59	71	48	58	11	13
Delivery of alcohol to under 18	209	128	61	106	51	22	11
Criminal Damage (under £500)	12,168	6,996	57	5,180	43	1,816	15
Theft (retail under £200)	21,997	9,057	41	6,965	32	2,092	10
Breach of fireworks curfew	33	18	55	13	39	5	15
Possession of category 4 firework	13	5	38	4	31	1	8
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	47	29	62	21	45	8	17
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	32	24	75	13	41	11	34
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	3	2	66	1	33	1	33
£50 Tickets issued							
Trespass on a railway	220	97	44	75	34	22	10

Table 2: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2005[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence code and description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
Throwing stones at a train / railway	20	13	65	9	45	4	20
Drunk in a highway	3,138	1,669	53	1,255	40	414	13
Consumption of alcohol in public place	712	168	24	113	16	55	8
Depositing and leaving litter	737	368	50	274	37	94	13
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on licensed premises	84	66	79	54	64	12	14
Allowing consumption of alcohol for under 18	27	14	52	9	33	5	19
Buying alcohol by under 18	21	13	62	11	52	2	10
Total all offences	146,481	77,247	53	56,823	39	20,424	14

	Other outcomes									
Offence code and description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued										
Wasting police time	1,161	46	41	2	50	2	44	2	30	1
Misuse of public telecommunications system	140	35	7	2	10	2	7	2	3	1
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	38	41	2	2	—	—	3	3	—	—
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	26,754	42	706	1	1,251	2	808	1	573	1
Throwing fireworks	271	42	6	1	8	1	6	1	4	1
Drunk and disorderly	14,459	39	488	1	504	1	472	1	253	1
Sale of alcohol to under 18	211	10	5	0	30	1	4	0	3	0
Purchasing alcohol for under 18	60	35	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	1
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises	23	28	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to under 18	70	33	3	1	5	2	2	1	1	0
Criminal Damage (under £500)	4,702	39	107	1	161	1	123	1	79	1
Theft (retail under £200)	11,927	54	187	1	301	1	292	1	233	1
Breach of fireworks curfew	14	42	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
Possession of category 4 firework	8	62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	15	32	1	2	1	2	—	—	1	2
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	6	19	1	3	—	—	1	3	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	1	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
£50 Tickets issued										
Trespass on a railway	115	52	—	—	3	1	2	1	3	1
Throwing stones at a train / railway	5	25	—	—	1	5	1	5	—	—
Drunk in a highway	1,339	43	18	1	59	2	31	1	22	1
Consumption of alcohol in public place	499	70	7	1	26	4	3	0	9	1
Depositing and leaving litter	325	44	8	1	23	3	5	1	8	1

			Other outcomes							
Offence code and description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on licensed premises	16	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Allowing consumption of alcohol for under 18	12	44	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buying alcohol by under 18	8	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total all offences	62,179	42	1,588	1	2,437	2	1,805	1	1,225	1

— = nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis unit.

Table 3: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2006[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued							
Wasting police time	3,933	1,911	49	1,355	34	556	14
Misuse of public telecommunications system	909	523	58	388	43	135	15
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	106	43	41	35	33	8	8
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	82,235	43,120	52	30,757	37	12,363	15
Throwing fireworks	682	380	56	267	39	113	17
Drunk and disorderly	43,556	24,673	57	18,123	42	6,550	15
Criminal Damage (under £500)	20,620	11,351	55	8,342	40	3,009	15
Theft (retail under £200)	38,772	16,169	42	12,370	32	3,799	10
Breach of fireworks curfew	53	34	64	27	51	7	13
Possession of category 4 firework	28	12	43	9	32	3	11
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	76	51	67	34	45	17	22
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	47	35	74	29	62	6	13
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	60	53	88	41	68	12	20
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	3,195	2,756	86	2,354	74	402	13
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	407	268	66	213	52	55	14
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	60	39	65	35	58	4	7
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	297	176	59	132	44	44	15
£50 Tickets issued							
Trespass on a railway	1,042	551	53	320	31	231	22
Throwing stones at a train/railway	15	6	40	5	33	1	7
Drunk in a highway	2,712	1,433	53	1,064	39	369	14
Consumption of alcohol in public place	1,061	252	24	165	16	87	8
Depositing and leaving litter	1,169	593	51	427	37	166	14
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	75	55	73	46	61	9	12
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	14	10	71	10	71	—	[illegible]
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	73	52	71	43	59	9	12

Table 5: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2006¹

				Of these paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
All offences	201,197	104,546	52	76,591	38	27,955	14

	Other outcomes									
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued										
Wasting police time	1,787	45	44	1	108	3	81	2	2	0
Misuse of public telecommunications system	319	35	14	2	26	3	24	3	3	0
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	52	49	—	—	6	6	5	5	—	—
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	35,154	43	780	1	1,914	2	1,126	1	141	0
Throwing fireworks	264	39	5	1	23	3	10	1	—	—
Drunk and disorderly	16,919	39	209	1	886	2	725	2	84	0
Criminal Damage (under £500)	8,492	41	134	1	324	2	287	1	32	0
Theft (retail under £200)	21,157	55	203	1	732	2	392	1	119	0
Breach of fireworks curfew	16	30	1	2	1	2	—	—	1	2
Possession of category 4 firework	15	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	21	28	—	—	3	4	1	1	—	—
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	9	19	1	2	2	4	—	—	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	7	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	390	12	6	0	30	1	10	0	3	0
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	122	30	1	0	10	2	6	1	—	—
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	20	33	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	90	33	3	1	14	5	3	1	2	1
£50 Tickets issued										
Trespass on a railway	463	44	2	0	19	2	6	1	1	0
Throwing stones at a train/railway	6	40	—	—	2	13	—	—	1	7
Drunk in a highway	1,158	43	7	0	94	3	16	1	4	0
Consumption of alcohol in public place	749	71	7	1	45	4	6	1	2	0
Depositing and leaving litter	536	46	3	0	26	2	10	1	1	0
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	17	23	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	4	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	20	27	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
All offences	87,796	44	1,480	1	4,268	2	2,710	1	397	0

— = nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis unit.

Table 4: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2007[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	%	*Paid in full within 21 days*	%	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	%
£80 Tickets issued							
Wasting police time	3,966	1,862	47	1,384	35	478	12
Misuse of public telecommunications system	1,193	670	56	526	44	144	12
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	96	55	57	38	40	17	18
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	77,827	40,357	52	30,761	40	9,596	12
Throwing fireworks	649	374	58	290	45	84	13
Drunk and disorderly	46,906	26,367	56	19,727	42	6,640	14
Criminal Damage (under £500)	19,946	11,072	56	8,401	42	2,671	13
Theft (retail under £200)	45,146	19,111	42	15,390	34	3,721	8
Breach of fireworks curfew	39	25	64	20	51	5	13
Possession of category 4 firework	22	10	45	7	32	3	14
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	106	67	63	57	54	10	9
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	81	64	79	50	62	14	17
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	54	41	76	31	57	10	19
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	3,583	3,074	86	2,623	73	451	13
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	555	320	58	244	44	76	14
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	64	31	48	23	36	8	13
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	431	268	62	219	51	49	11
£50 Tickets issued							
Trespass on a railway	1,527	780	51	441	29	339	22
Throwing stones at a train/ railway	25	13	52	11	44	2	8
Drunk in a highway	2,066	1,146	55	942	46	204	10
Consumption of alcohol in public place	1,544	328	21	259	17	69	4
Depositing and leaving litter	1,374	705	51	541	39	164	12
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	85	67	79	55	65	12	14
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	11	9	82	8	73	1	9
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	158	109	69	85	54	24	15
All offences	207,544	106,925	52	82,133	40	24,792	12

	Other outcomes									
Offence description	*Fine registered*	%	*Court hearing requested*	%	*PND cancelled*	%	*Potential prosecution*	%	*Outcome unknown*	%
£80 Tickets issued										
Wasting police time	1,807	46	34	1	122	3	140	4	1	0
Misuse of public telecommunications system	431	36	17	1	43	4	32	3	—	—
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	37	39	—	—	3	3	1	1	—	—
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	33,021	42	626	1	2,210	3	1,577	2	36	0
Throwing fireworks	223	34	9	1	30	5	13	2	—	—
Drunk and disorderly	18,161	39	244	1	1,038	2	1,177	3	9	0
Criminal Damage (under £500)	7,979	40	112	1	384	2	393	2	6	0

			Other outcomes							
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
Theft (retail under £200)	24,344	54	172	0	988	2	507	1	24	0
Breach of fireworks curfew	13	33	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
Possession of category 4 firework	10	45	—	—	2	9	—	—	—	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	31	29	1	1	5	5	2	2	—	—
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	9	11	3	4	2	2	3	4	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	11	20	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	405	11	13	0	69	2	22	1	—	—
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	211	38	4	1	14	3	5	1	1	0
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	22	34	—	—	10	16	1	2	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	138	32	1	0	19	4	5	1	—	—
£50 Tickets issued										
Trespass on a railway	675	44	—	—	45	3	26	2	1	0
Throwing stones at a train/railway	10	40	—	—	2	8	—	—	—	—
Drunk in a highway	788	38	8	0	94	5	30	1	—	—
Consumption of alcohol in public place	1,090	71	6	0	87	6	32	2	1	0
Depositing and leaving litter	589	43	2	0	64	5	13	1	1	0
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	16	19	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	1	9	—	—	1	9	—	—	—	—
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	35	22	—	—	13	8	1	1	—	—
All offences	90,057	43	1,253	1	5,249	3	3,980	2	80	0

— = nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis unit.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what role the Probation Service has in monitoring ex-offenders placed in bail hostels managed by ClearSprings; and if he will make a statement. [276901]

Mr. Hanson: 55 per cent. of those living at a ClearSprings address are defendants on bail and are not subject to Probation supervision, unless they were subject to a relevant prior sentence when bailed by the court. Prisoners serving custodial sentences of more than 12 months are subject to supervision by the National Probation Service (NPS). All those aged between 18 and 21 years that serve a custodial sentence are supervised by the NPS on release. They are required to meet their offender manager on release and have regular contact in accordance with the requirements of their licence supervision. For those released under Home Detention Curfew (HDC) supervision starts at the point of release on HDC and continues until the supervision licence expires. Compliance with the HDC curfew condition is monitored by the relevant electronic monitoring contractor.

For those living at a ClearSprings address who were serving a custodial sentence of less than 12 months and are over 21 years of age, ClearSprings provides support.

Data Protection: Local Government

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which local authorities the Information Commissioner has found to have breached the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 since 2000. [276854]

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent authority set up to enforce and oversee the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

Since the commencement of the DPA in 2000, the ICO has assessed 290 local authorities for compliance with the data protection principles. The ICO aims to resolve complaints informally with data controllers in the first instance. The ICO issued an Enforcement Notice against Plymouth city council obliging it to comply with the principles of the DPA. The ICO also agreed one non-statutory undertaking against Leicester city council to ensure it fulfils its DPA obligations.

Human Rights: Costs

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of changes in Government policy or practice necessitated by judgments made by the European Court of Human Rights since 1998. [277111]

Mr. Wills: The implementation of a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights is the responsibility of the Department in charge of the policy area concerned, and measures implementing a judgment are often included in wider changes to policy or legislation. The specific cost, if any, of implementing individual judgments therefore cannot be separated out, which prevents such an estimate being made.

Isle of Man: Electricity Generation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 359W, on British Overseas Territories: renewable energy, from what sources the remainder of the Isle of Man's electricity demands are generated. [276786]

Mr. Wills: In the year 2007-08, the Isle of Man's electricity demand was met approximately as follows: 84 per cent. gas (using combined cycle gas turbines), 10 per cent. imports, 4 per cent. energy from waste, 1 per cent. hydro and 1 per cent. diesel.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report* column 359W, on British Overseas Territories: renewable energy, what the annual cost of operating the hydro-generation facility in the Isle of Man is. [276805]

Mr. Wills: The Isle of Man hydro-generation facility has operational costs of typically less than £25,000 per annum and is a priority generator, subject to sufficient reservoir water levels.

Magistrates Courts: Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average daily amount paid to a magistrate was in each of the last three years. [276750]

Mr. Straw: Magistrates are not paid for carrying out their duties but may claim allowances within specified limits for travel, subsistence and financial loss. The structure of HMCS' financial systems does not enable the calculation of the daily amount paid in allowances.

From 1 August 2008, magistrates may claim the following daily allowances:

Day subsistence

	£
Four to eight hours	7.34
Eight to 12 hours	10.23

Financial loss

		£
	Self-employed	*Other*
Up to four hours	56.63	45.30
Over four hours	113.26	90.61

Approximately half of the 30,000 magistrates in England and Wales do not claim any allowances.

On average, magistrates sit 17.5 days per annum. The total loss of earnings and travel and subsistence costs paid to magistrates in each of the last three years was:

	£
2006-07	17,560,000
2007-08	16,911,000
2008-09	17,839,000

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of each *(a)* prison and *(b)* young offender institution's budget was spent on management staff salaries in the last 12 months. [277297]

Mr. Hanson: National Offender Management Unit finance systems provide analysis between unified and clerical staff but do not allow specific analysis of management salaries without a disproportionate amount of manual analysis. Each prison would need to be contacted individually and asked to undertake a manual analysis of their payroll. It is estimated that this would be a day's work at each prison.

Prisoners Release: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether any prisoners transferred from a prison in Northern Ireland to a prison in England and Wales have since been released under the end of custody licence scheme. [277284]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners transferred from Northern Ireland to serve their sentences in England and Wales may be released on ECL provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

Between the start of the end of custody licence (ECL) scheme in June 2007 and the end of April 2009, there have been eight transfers of prisoners from a Northern Ireland prison to a prison in England and Wales. None of these eight has been released on ECL.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Coltishall

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what date his Department's final decision to acquire the site of RAF Coltishall for conversion into a prison was taken; and on what date construction work for conversion of the buildings commenced; [277249]

(2) on what date his Department *(a)* decided to acquire, *(b)* acquired and *(c)* took unencumbered possession of RAF Coltishall; and on what date (i) construction on the site began and (ii) he expects the first prisoners to be received at HM Prison Coltishall. [277676]

Mr. Straw: In response to Lord Carter's report, "Securing the Future: Proposals for the Efficient and Sustainable Use of Custody in England and Wales" in January 2008 Ministers agreed to the acquisition of the former RAF Coltishall site in Norfolk for conversion to a prison.

The site had previously been under consideration by the Home Office as immigration detention centre since 2006 and the Ministry of Justice acquired the site from the UK Border Agency in March 2008.

The work which did not require planning approval began in April 2008. Work requiring approval began in February 2009.

The prison is due to receive the first 259 prisoners in November 2009 and become fully operational by spring 2010.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* annualised capital and *(b)* annual revenue cost of each prisoner place at HM Prison Coltishall throughout its planned lifetime. [277274]

Mr. Straw: Work is currently being undertaken to establish and approve detailed running costs for the new prison at Coltishall.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department will pay to *(a)* the Ministry of Defence and *(b)* other freehold and leasehold owners of the land on which HM Prison Coltishall will be sited in each financial year in which payments will be made. [277275]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice owns the Coltishall site outright, and so there are no fees payable in terms of freehold and leasehold of the land.

Probation: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed by North Yorkshire Probation Area on 31 March of each of the last five financial years. [277057]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of probation officers and probation service officers in post in North Yorkshire probation area on 31 March in each of the last five financial years.

	Probation officers[1, 2]	*Probation service officers*[2]
2003-04	76	40
2004-05	94	60
2005-06	87	45
2006-07	87	57
2007-08[3]	74	73

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[1] Probation officer figures include senior probation officers, senior practitioners and probation officers.

[2] The fluctuating levels of staff are likely to be as a result of inconsistent classification of roles in the previous method of collecting information and these should be rectified within the HR Data Warehouse.

[3] The information provided has yet to be published and may therefore be subject to minor amendment upon publication.

Notes:

1. Figures are shown as full-time equivalents.
2. Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in North Yorkshire Probation Area were categorised as tier 4 in each of the last five financial years. [277059]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of offenders in North Yorkshire who were categorised as tier 4 as at 31 March in each of the last three years was as follows:

	Number
2006	318
2007	336
2008	369

Information on tier 4 was not recorded prior to 1 April 2005.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation staff and *(b)* trainee probation officers are expected to be made redundant in North Yorkshire Probation Area in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [277060]

Mr. Hanson: Budget discussions will be taking place between the director of Offender Management and the North Yorkshire Area over the coming months and it is too early to pre-empt the outcome of these discussions. At this stage, no probation posts have been identified as being at risk and no formal notice of redundancy has been issued.

With regards to trainee probation officers, attempts are being made to ensure that all graduating trainees are offered positions at the end of their training.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the likely effect of planned job reductions in North Yorkshire Probation Area on the Probation Service's national standards and service delivery. [277061]

Mr. Hanson: The chief officer of North Yorkshire Probation Board is working closely with Steve Wagstaffe the Yorkshire and Humberside director of Offender Management to avoid compulsory redundancies in North Yorkshire in 2009-10.

The chief officer has assured the director of Offender Management for Yorkshire and Humberside that the North Yorkshire Probation Board will maintain national standards and deliver the level of service specified in the service level agreement for 2009-10.

Probation: Rural Areas

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how the funding formula for probation services takes account of the costs of providing probation services in rural areas. [277056]

Mr. Hanson: There are a number of factors taken into account to ensure that funding allocations are as fair as possible, including:

current financial performance and pressures;

detailed work by specifications benchmarking and costing programme to identify areas where efficiencies and savings can be achieved;

contrasting previous budget allocations with amalgamated indictable and summary convictions for the area. Adjustments have been made where data indicates significant (i.e. over 10 per cent.) relative over-provision compared to the norm; and

the need to avoid radical budget changes within any one area.

Probation: Staffordshire

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed in the Staffordshire probation area on 31 March in each of the last five financial years. [276981]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of probation officers and probation service officers in post in the Staffordshire probation area on 31 March in each of the last five financial years.

	Probation officers[1]	*Probation service officers*
2003-04	146	81
2004-05	153	91
2005-06	155	87
2006-07	173	92
2007-08[2]	159	92

[1] Probation officer figures include senior probation officers, senior practitioners and probation officers.
[2] The information provided has yet to be published and may therefore be subject to minor amendment upon publication.
Notes:
1. Figures are shown as full-time equivalents.
2. Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect of changes of staffing levels in Staffordshire probation area on *(a)* observance of national probation standards and *(b)* levels of service delivery. [276986]

Mr. Hanson: The chief officer of Staffordshire Probation Board is working closely with Gill Mortlock the West Midlands director of Offender Management to ensure staffing levels are sufficient to maintain national standards in Staffordshire in 2009-10.

The chief officer has assured the director of Offender Management for West Midlands that the Staffordshire Probation Board will maintain national standards and deliver the level of service specified in the service level agreement for 2009-10.

Probation: Wales

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed by South Wales Probation Area on 31 March in each of the last five financial years. [277300]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the numbers of probation officers and probation service officers in post in the South Wales Probation Area on 31 March in each of the last five financial years:

	Probation officers[1]	*Probation service officers*
2003-04	172	138
2004-05	192	160
2005-06	206	169
2006-07	211	162
2007-08[2]	228	178

[1] Probation officer figures include senior probation officers, senior practitioners and probation officers.
[2] The information provided has yet to be published and may therefore be subject to minor amendment upon publication.
Note:
1. Figures are shown as full-time equivalents.
2. Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload of South Wales Probation Area on 31 March was in each of the last five financial years. [277301]

Mr. Hanson: The total community and pre-release custodial offender case load for South Wales as at 31 March in each of the last five years was as follows:

	Supervised in community	*Supervised in custody*
2004	4,355	1,513
2005	4,830	1,590
2006	4,974	1,516
2007	4,800	1,572
2008	5,119	1,711

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were referred to Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels in South Wales Probation Area in each of the last five financial years. [277302]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the total number of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) eligible offenders living in the community in South Wales probation area. The table also shows the number of eligible offenders who were managed at the higher MAPPA levels and who were considered by multi-agency public protection panels. Cases are referred to level 2 where the involvement of several agencies will be required to implement or monitor the risk management plan and to level 3 where more senior oversight is additionally required. These data are taken from South Wales MAPPA Annual Reports.

South Wales

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total MAPPA eligible offenders	1,054	1,325	1,152	1,172	1,395
Level 2	[1]—	575	607	673	491
Level 3	65	51	100	68	88

[1] Not collected.

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in the South Wales Probation Area were categorised as tier 4 in each of the last five financial years. [277303]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of offenders in South Wales who were categorised as tier 4 as at 31 March in each of the last three years was as follows:

	Number
2006	1,139
2007	1,152
2008	1,142

Information on tier was not recorded prior to 1 April 2005.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Youth Custody

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many beds in each secure *(a)* children's home and *(b)* secure training centre in each local authority were available for (i) purchase by the Youth Justice Board and (ii) welfare placements in each year since 2002. [276470]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Any places in secure children's homes that are not required for welfare placements are available for purchase by the Youth Justice Board. The following table shows the number of secure children's home places block-purchased by the Youth Justice Board since 2002. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board and relate to the contractual position as at 1 April in each year. Actual contracted places may vary through the year where a contractor fails to meet the requirements of the contract and places are declared unavailable until the issues have been addressed.

Youth Justice Board contracted places in secure children's homes

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Aldine House	6	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
Atkinson Unit	11	11	10	10	10	10	10	10
Aycliffe	30	35	30	30	30	30	30	30
Barton Moss	17	18	20	20	20	20	20	20
Briars Hey (Orchard House)	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brunei Unit	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clare Lodge	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clayfields House	9	9	12	12	12	12	12	12
Dales House	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dyson Hall (Gladstone Unit)	9	16	16	16	16	16	0	0
East Moor	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
Hillside	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	15
Lincolnshire	4	7	7	7	7	7	8	8
Kyloe House	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Leverton	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orchard Lodge	16	18	18	18	18	18	16	16
Red Bank	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
Redsands	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. John's Tiffield	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stamford House	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stoke House	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton Place	7	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Swanwick Lodge	5	8	10	10	10	10	10	10
Thornbury House	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vinney Green	18	20	20	20	20	20	20	20

The following table shows the number of secure training centre places purchased by the Youth Justice Board since 2002. Young people are not accommodated in secure training centres for welfare reasons. The data have been provided by the Youth Justice Board and relate to the contractual position as at 1 April in each year. Actual contracted places may vary through the year where a contractor fails to meet the requirements of the contract and places are declared unavailable until the issues have been addressed.

Youth Justice Board contracted places in Secure Training Centres

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Hassockfield	42	42	42	42	42	58	58	58
Medway	44	76	76	76	76	76	76	76

Youth Justice Board contracted places in Secure Training Centres

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Oakhill	n/a	n/a	n/a	80	80	80	80	80
Rainsbrook	44	76	76	76	76	87	87	87

The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not maintain a central record of contracted places in children's homes in England and Wales since 2002 by each home and it is therefore not possible to provide data on the number of welfare places in secure children's homes.

Youth Justice: Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the total cost of youth courts was in each of the last three years; and how many trials were carried out in youth courts in each such year; [276748]

(2) what the average cost to the public purse of a youth court trial was in each of the last three years. [276749]

Bridget Prentice: The HMCS accounting system reports court costs by court type; Crown, magistrates, combined, and location. It is not currently possible to separately identify and disaggregate youth court related costs. As a result it is not possible to calculate average court costs.

Youth court trials for the year ended 31 March were:

	Youth court trials
2008	23,375
2009	19,078

No statistics relating to youth court trials for the year ended 31 March 2007 are available.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling: Licensing

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* junior concession, *(b)* senior concession, *(c)* disabled concession and *(d)* full season rod licences have been issued in each year since 1997. [276773]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table indicates the number of full, senior, disabled and junior rod licences issued by the Environment Agency (EA) since 1999. Prior to this, the EA used different systems to store rod licence information. Such information is, therefore, not available in the categories required.

	Full (trout and coarse and salmon)	*Senior (trout and coarse and salmon)*	*Disabled (trout and coarse and salmon)*	*Junior (trout and coarse and salmon)*
1999	589,245	77,889	51,496	84,831
2000	557,372	73,475	50,601	78,627
2001	596,645	86,749	57,281	116,362
2002	563,800	89,149	57,648	116,026
2003	614,978	90,268	61,835	125,764
2004	637,125	97,818	58,516	128,173
2005	660,256	105,357	38,891	118,310
2006	669,061	112,166	32,865	120,268
2007	649,731	114,491	36,486	123,866
2008	793,127	164,442	51,372	129,501

Source:
The Environment Agency's rod licence database.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what income British Waterways received from its non-operational canal side property portfolio was in the last 12 months; and how much of that income was allocated to spending on waterways maintenance and improvement. [276526]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways' income from their canal side non-operational property for 2008-09 is estimated to be £43.2 million, pending final audited figures[1]. All of this income was used in 2008-09 to fund operational expenditure on managing the waterways including maintenance and improvement.

[1] Figures obtained from British Waterways.

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist British Waterways to establish a business model to provide a sustainable future for the waterways; what options are under consideration for the future of the waterways; and how those options will be evaluated. [276532]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways has launched a national debate on its proposal to move towards third sector status over the longer term. My Department, the Treasury, and the Shareholder Executive are engaged with British Waterways in discussing what is the best model for supporting a sustainable future for the waterways. We will be interested to see the responses to the public debate on British Waterways' third sector suggestion.

The Operational Efficiency Programme review, announced on 21 April 2009, concluded that a wholly owned subsidiary of British Waterways should be set up to manage its canal side non-operational property portfolio which is now being implemented. Government will monitor the impacts of the subsidiary and the progress of British Waterways' strategy before taking any decisions on any further change to the British Waterways business model.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273905]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was accompanied by one official only.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what car journeys he undertook in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273906]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was driven from Glasgow Central station to the Cabinet meeting. Following the meeting, he was driven to visit the Forth and Clyde canal regeneration project, after which he returned to Glasgow Central.

Departmental Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what procedure his Department follows for dealing with complaints received *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via his Department's website. [274525]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has a Corporate Service Standard that complaints be dealt with within 15 working days of receipt.

The Department's aim is for complaints received by whatever means, i.e. *(a)* by e-mail, *(b)* by post, *(c)* by telephone and *(d)* via the Department's website, be dealt with where possible at the point of receipt.

Where this is not possible, the complaint is passed to the unit within the Department responsible for the area of work complained about to be dealt with there.

If a complainant is not satisfied with the outcome, DEFRA's complaints procedure provides the complainant with the option to escalate the complaint as follows:

to the Department's impartial Service Standards Complaints Adjudicator for complaints about standard of service; or

to the Secretary of State for DEFRA or to a DEFRA Minister via a Member of Parliament for complaints about DEFRA policy or legal issues.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274303]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The table details the number of staff in DEFRA and its agencies that were dismissed *(a)* for underperformance and *(b)* in total in each of the last eight financial years. DEFRA was created in June 2001 and therefore data is only available from this date. Included in the data are only DEFRA's Executive Agencies and not Non-Departmental Public Bodies as sourcing this information would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

DEFRA and its agencies improving performance policies and procedures are in line with the Civil Service Management Code. All staff have access to these policies and procedures via the DEFRA intranet.

Financial year	*Dismissal for underperformance*[1]	*Total number of dismissals*
2001-02	5	52
2002-03	0	49
2003-04	6	[illegible]
2004-05	5	34
2005-06	6	33
2006-07	10	24
2007-08	4	23
2008-09	29	47

[1] The data for dismissal for underperformance represents the minimum number. There may have been others however dismissal data was not recorded via category in some agencies until recently.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1295W, on departmental public expenditure, what progress has been made by his Department in allocating the £25 million capital spending brought forward from 2009-10 to 2008-09. [274246]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The £25 million capital spending referred to was brought forward from 2010-11 into 2009-10. This additional funding has been programmed into the budgets for Environment Agency flood risk management (£20 million) and British Waterways capital spending on network infrastructure maintenance (£5 million). Expenditure is being monitored on a monthly basis.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 5W on departmental public expenditure, how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* other parties attended (i) the internal conference held in October 2008 and (ii) the seminar with delivery bodies held in November 2008. [274879]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The internal conference in October 2008 was attended by 134 civil servants and four people from outside the Department. No Ministers attended the internal conference.

No Ministers attended the seminar with delivery bodies held in November 2008. Eight civil servants and 13 people from outside the Department attended.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275973]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". Copies of "Public Bodies 2008" are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is available in "DEFRA's Public Bodies" on DEFRA's website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/delivery/landscape/pdf/public-bodies.pdf

Information about reviews commissioned since the Department's creation is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Stationery

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on branded stationery and gifts for *(a)* internal and *(b)* external promotional use in each of the last five years. [273781]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA orders low cost promotional items only to support specific campaign messages to external audiences. The following figures show how much DEFRA spent on promotional materials each year since 2005.

2005-06

Total spend £465.80—T-shirts;

2006-07

Total spend £13,806.00—T-shirts, travel wallets and toothbrushes for the BME Illegal Food Imports campaign;

2007-08

Total spend £10,177.80—T-shirts, pens, travel wallets for the BME Illegal Food Imports campaign and T-shirts for Act on CO_2 campaign;

2008-09

Total spend £10,475.00—Organic t-shirts, recycled pens and travel wallets for BME Illegal Food Imports campaign.

Environment Agency: Vacancies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many vacancies there were for *(a)* flood risk engineers, *(b)* flood risk planners, *(c)* flood risk project managers and *(d)* other flood risk management posts in the Environment Agency in each region on 1 April in each of the last five years; and for how long each such post has been vacant. [277360]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following tables show the number of vacancies in regional flood risk teams in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and to May 2009 in each region. It also provides a breakdown of how long these have been vacant during 2008 and 2009. Information on this preceding 2008 is not available.

The majority of posts are filled by permanent employees and as part of the Environment Agency's resourcing strategy a range of other techniques are used to ensure that work is completed within agreed timeframes. These include the use of consultants, contractors, part-time or flexible working.

Region	*Positions*	*Vacancy May 2009*	*Vacant for 0 to 3 Months*	*Vacant for 3 to 6 months*	*Vacant for 6 to 12 Months*	*Vacant for 12 months +*
Anglian	FR planners	2	2	0	0	0
	FR engineers	9	4	1	3	1
	FR project managers	11	6	3	2	0
	Others	2	2	0	0	0
Anglian total		24	14	4	5	1
Midlands	FR planners	2	1	1	0	0
	FR engineers	10	7	1	1	1
	FR project managers	5	5	0	0	0
	Others	0	0	0	0	0
Midlands total		17	13	2	1	1
North East	FR planners	1	1	0	0	0
	FR engineers	5	1	0	3	1
	FR project managers	4	3	0	1	0
	Others	5	4	0	1	0
North East total		15	9	0	5	1
North West	FR planners	3	0	1	2	0
	FR engineers	5	0	1	4	0
	FR project managers	2	0	2	0	0
	Others	5	4	0	1	0
North West total		15	4	4	7	0
Southern	FR planners	4	0	0	4	0
	FR engineers	6	2	1	3	0
	FR project managers	1	0	1	0	0
	Others	2	2	0	0	0
Southern total		13	4	2	7	0
South West	FR planners	4	3	1	0	0

Region	*Positions*	*Vacancy May 2009*	*Vacant for 0 to 3 Months*	*Vacant for 3 to 6 months*	*Vacant for 6 to 12 Months*	*Vacant for 12 months +*
	FR engineers	16	16	0	0	0
	FR project managers	10	10	0	0	0
	Others	4	4	0	0	0
South West total		34	33	1	0	0
Thames	FR planners	3	0	1	2	0
	FR engineers	6	3	1	1	1
	FR project managers	3	1	0	2	0
	Others	10	4	0	6	0
Thames total		22	8	2	11	1
Wales	FR planners	2	1	1	0	0
	FR engineers	2	2	0	0	0
	FR project managers	5	4	0	1	0
	Others	1	1	0	0	0
Wales total		10	8	1	1	0
Overall total		150	93	16	37	4

Region	*Positions*	*Vacancy May 2008*	*Vacant for 0 to 3 Months*	*Vacant for 3 to 6 months*	*Vacant for 6 to 12 Months*	*Vacant for 12months +*
Anglian	FR planners	9	4	1	3	1
	FR engineers	8	2	5	0	1
	FR project managers	9	4	4	1	0
	Other	1	1	0	0	0
Anglian total		27	11	10	4	2
Midlands	FR planners	1	0	1	0	0
	FR engineers	5	3	1	0	1
	FR project managers	8	4	2	2	0
	Other	3	2	1	0	0
Midlands total		17	9	5	2	1
North East	FR planners	2	2	0	0	0
	FR engineers	9	9	0	(T	0
	FR project managers	9	8	1	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0
North East total		20	19	1	0	0
North West	FR planners	1	1	0	0	0
	FR engineers	10	9	1	0	0
	FR project managers	7	6	1	0	0
	Other	3	0	0	1	2
North West total		21	16	2	1	2
Southern	FR planners	3	2	1	0	0
	FR engineers	7	7	0	0	0
	FR project managers	4	4	0	0	0
	Other	0	0	0	0	0
Southern total		14	13	1	0	0
South West	FR planners	4	1	2	1	0
	FR engineers	15	7	3	3	2
	FR project managers	9	3	2	3	1

Region	*Positions*	*Vacancy May 2008*	*Vacant for 0 to 3 Months*	*Vacant for 3 to 6 months*	*Vacant for 6 to 12 Months*	*Vacant for 12months +*
	Other	2	2	0	0	0
South West total		30	13	7	7	3
Thames	FR planners	1	1	0	0	0
	FR engineers	9	4	2	2	1
	FR project managers	7	7	0	0	0
	Other	4	3	1	0	0
Thames total		21	15	3	2	1
Wales	FR planners	2	0	1	1	0
	FR engineers	4	2	2	0	0
	FR project managers	7	1	2	2	2
	Other	1	1	0	0	0
Wales total		14	4	5	3	2
Overall total		164	100	34	19	11

Region	*Positions*	*Vacancies May 2009*	*Vacancies 2008*	*Vacancies 2007*	*Vacancies 2006*	*Vacancies 2005*
Anglian	FR planners	2	9	7	6	7
	FR engineers	9	8	9	2	3
	FR project managers	11	9	4	5	7
	Others	2	1	0	0	0
Anglian total		24	27	20	13	17
Midlands	FR planners	2	1	2	0	1
	FR engineers	10	5	5	6	6
	FR project managers	5	8	7	7	7
	Others	0	3	0	0	0
Midlands total		17	17	14	13	14
North East	FR planners	1	2	2	1	1
	FR engineers	5	9	7	2	5
	FR project managers	4	9	6	0	5
	Others	5	0	0	0	0
North East total		15	20	15	3	11
North West	FR planners	3	1	0	0	1
	FR engineers	5	10	4	1	2
	FR project managers	2	7	4	5	8
	Others	5	3	0	0	0
North West total		15	21	8	6	11
Southern	FR planners	4	3	3	4.5	4.5
	FR engineers	6	7	6	19	19
	FR project managers	1	4	2	6	6
	Others	2	0	0	0	0
Southern total		13	14	11	29.5	29.5
South West	FR planners	4	4	0	5	6
	FR engineers	16	15	3	13	13
	FR project managers	10	9	6	4	5
	Others	4	2	0	0	0
South West total		34	30	9	22	24

Region	*Positions*	*Vacancies May 2009*	*Vacancies 2008*	*Vacancies 2007*	*Vacancies 2006*	*Vacancies 2005*
Thames	FR planners	3	1	4	3	3
	FR engineers	6	9	7	26	27
	FR project managers	3	7	8	5	6
	Others	10	4	0	0	0
Thames total		22	21	19	34	36
Wales	FR planners	2	2	4	4	4
	FR engineers	2	4	0	0	0
	FR project managers	5	7	6	3	3
	Others	1	1	0	0	0
Wales total		10	14	10	7	7
Overall total		150	164	106	127.5	149.5

Fisheries

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the level of illegal fishing within the UK's 12 nautical mile limit in each year since 1997. [276707]

Huw Irranca-Davies: By its very nature, illegal fishing is clandestine and so it is extremely difficult to make an accurate estimate of the levels of illegal fishing activities.

Information on the number of successful prosecutions of offences discovered, and the number of official written warnings issued by the UK fisheries control authorities, in relation to vessels not complying with regulations regarding access to the 12 mile limit is set out in the following table.

	Prosecutions	*Official written warnings*
1997	2	2
1998	2	1
1999	3	1
2000	1	1
2001	3	1
2002	8	0
2003	9	1
2004	6	2
2005	2	5
2006	5	2
2007	2	0
2008	4	0
2009	0	2
Total	47	18

Source:
Statistics supplied by the Marine and Fisheries Agency, Marine Scotland and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

All other successful prosecutions of fisheries offences and official written warnings issued, are not recorded in a way which specifies whether the offence took place within or outside of the 12 mile limit.

Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) enforce local fisheries bye-laws and some other fisheries regulations within the six mile limit of England and Wales. Information on successful prosecutions of fisheries offences by SFCs are not held by the Marine and Fisheries Agency.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total allowable catch is of vessels from each EU member state in fishing zones partially or fully within the UK's 200 nautical mile limit; and if he will make a statement. [277100]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The United Kingdom's 200 nautical mile fisheries limit includes part of the fishing zones classified by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) as areas IIa, IV, Vb1, Vb2, VIa, VIb and VIIa, d, e, f, g, h and j. A map of these zones can be found on the ICES website:

www.ices.dk/aboutus/icesareas.asp

Since fish stocks can straddle the territorial waters of several member and non-member states of the European Union, the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for stocks which fall partially or wholly within these ICES zones are set at Community level by Ministers each December at the EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council and, where necessary, by third country agreements with Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Details of TACs and Quotas for 2009 can be found in the following EU legislation, which is available on the European Commission's website:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/legislation/other/conservation_en.htm

Council Regulation (EC) No 43/2009 of 16 January 2009 fixing for 2009 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required (Annex I); and

Council Regulation (EC) No 1359/2008 of 28 November 2008 fixing for 2009 and 2010 the fishing opportunities for Community fishing vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks (Annex, Part 2)

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of *(a)* high risk and *(b)* other flood defence systems have been at target condition in each of the last five years. [277396]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency began measuring the condition of flood risk management systems in 2007.At that time 45.0 per cent. (643 out of 1,429) of high consequence systems and 45.8 per cent. of all systems were at or above their required condition.

In 2008, 66.5 per cent. (958 out of 1,440) of high consequence systems and 72.5 per cent. (2,259 out of 3,117) of all systems were at or above the required condition.

As of April 2009 71.9 per cent. (951 out of 1,323) of high consequence systems and 73.5 per cent. (2,136 out of 2,907) of all systems were at or above required condition.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent to local authorities in December 2008 on flood risk and the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Pitt report on flooding. [277400]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I will place a copy of the letter in question in the Library of the House.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities which have *(a)* collated and *(b)* mapped their main flood risk management and drainage assets. [277442]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In October 2008 the Local Government Association undertook a survey for DEFRA to assess what local flood risk management activities were being undertaken by local authorities. The survey included a question on whether they had collected and mapped information on flood risk management assets owned by themselves, by water companies and those privately owned. 66 per cent. of authorities responded to the survey and indicated that:

85 per cent. had collated and mapped some or all of their own assets;

41 per cent. had collated and mapped some or all water company assets and;

48 per cent. had collated and mapped some or all privately owned assets.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish *(a)* the national register of flood rescue assets and *(b)* a list of assets which must be purchased before the winter of 2009-10. [277445]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In April 2009 we initiated a national Flood Rescue Enhancement Project involving all the key organisations in the UK associated with search and rescue, and flood rescue in particular. The project has prepared a draft national register of flood rescue assets. Work is in hand to validate the information held on the register to ensure it is kept up-to-date—we envisage that it will be a 'live' dataset to track the availability of flood rescue assets (and trained rescue personnel) across a range of organisations operating in the UK. As it will be a dataset of assets owned by a multitude of organisations, publication of a snapshot of the register, once completed, would be a matter for collective agreement by all of the organisations involved.

The review of existing assets and the ongoing work during the summer to determine flood rescue capability requirements will provide a much clearer indication of any gaps in existing capability. We will then be in a position to target investment in order to bring existing assets (and trained rescue personnel) that are not yet declared on the national register up to an agreed operational standard.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which emergency response organisations have enhanced their training and flood rescue capability following the floods in summer 2007. [277446]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following the floods in 2007, organisations which have enhanced their training and flood rescue capability include the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, numerous fire and rescue services throughout England and Wales, mountain rescue services, and the Maritime Coastguard Agency. Other enhancements have also been made by organisations such as the Automobile Association, the Red Cross, the RSPCA and numerous small specialist flood rescue associations and groups such as Global Rescue Services.

Some of these organisations have trained together and begun to use commonly recognised accreditation standards such as "Swift Water Rescue Technician". Some have made investments in both the training and purchasing of equipment and assets to enhance their flood rescue capability over the past 18 months.

The Flood Rescue National Enhancement Project will bring a lot of these components together to deliver the primary aim of improving flood rescue capability and co-ordination between the agencies concerned.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in increasing flood resilience at sites of critical infrastructure. [277657]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The energy sector began work on improving resilience to flooding in the autumn of 2007, with an initial focus on electricity substations being extended to include both gas and oil installations. The Energy Networks Association, working with the Government and the electricity industry, has produced a report on the steps that can be taken to further safeguard electricity substations. The matter is being given full consideration with the industry regulator in the scope of the current distribution companies' price review.

In addition, lessons from the 2007 floods are being taken forward in relation to water companies. All companies have considered resilience in their draft business plans, which were submitted to Ofwat in August. The plans vary, as expected, reflecting the size of the company and the specific challenges presented by their locations. In total, almost £1 billion of investment has been proposed to increase resilience.

The Natural Hazards Team is now in place in the Cabinet Office and will work across all infrastructure sectors to prioritise and co-ordinate work to counter the risks to national infrastructure from natural hazards.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in the establishment of a natural hazard team. [277709]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Natural Hazards Team was established in the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office at the beginning of May.

Floods: Gardens

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the outcomes of the research conducted by his Department into the effects of the paving of back gardens on levels of flood risk. [277405]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government commissioned this research, which has not yet been completed. We intend to publish the final report on completion.

Floods: Property Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers his Department has other than those in Planning Policy Guidance 25 to restrict building on flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [275636]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Powers to control and restrict building development are provided by the Town and Country Planning Acts. These powers are principally exercised by local planning authorities and, where appropriate, by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. My Department has no specific additional powers to influence planning decisions.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on floods: property development, which local planning authorities granted planning permission against an Environment Agency objection in each of the years for which information was provided in the answer. [277264]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A document listing those English local planning authorities that granted planning permission against Environment Agency advice on flood risk in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Inland Waterways: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to assist British Waterways to enable the transport of freight by water to and from the Olympic site. [277047]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA provides grant in aid to British Waterways in order for it to meet its statutory responsibilities for the maintenance of its waterways, including enabling freight transport as appropriate. DEFRA and its sponsored bodies—British Waterways, the Environment Agency and Natural England—promoted an initiative to maximise the potential of the waterways around the Olympic site, including for freight. The construction of Prescott Lock, which has opened up these rivers for the sustainable movement of materials by water, was funded by a number of bodies, among them the Department for Transport through a Freight Facilities Grant, London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, the Olympic Delivery Authority and Transport for London. Apart from grant in aid support for British Waterways, DEFRA provided £2 million towards the total £20 million cost of this project from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund[1].

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[1] Figures obtained from British Waterways

Sewers: Private Sector

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of anticipated changes to charges to households from the transfer of private drains and sewers in England and Wales to the ownership of the statutory water and sewerage companies from 2011. [277364]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 15 December 2008 that privately owned sewers and lateral drains in England will be transferred to water and sewerage companies from 2011. The accompanying impact assessment indicated an average rise of £10 per year on all sewerage bills, varying from £4 to £12 across different companies in England and Wales. This equates to around 7.5 pence to 23 pence a week.

Such increase must be balanced against the potential for significant bills for repair and maintenance which householders can currently face, often unexpectedly finding that they own a section of private drain or sewer beyond their property's curtilage.

Transfer in Wales is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government, which announced as part of its Strategic Policy Position Statement on Water on 31 March that it will pursue the development of regulations in 2011 to facilitate the transfer of private sewers.

Water Charges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average weekly water bill for a *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four or more person household. [276647]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Neither Ofwat nor my Department hold information on the average weekly water bill for households.

Ofwat's leaflet "Your water and sewerage bill 2009-10" provides information on average annual water bills for unmetered and metered bills for every water company in England and Wales. I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Water: Maps

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the Environment

Agency's surface water mapping; and whether the accuracy of the mapping has been subject to independent verification. [277011]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has confirmed that the accuracy of the surface water mapping was independently assessed, although the information currently available to do this is limited. The maps of Areas Susceptible to Surface Water were compared with those of the 15 Integrated Urban Drainage pilot projects and models already held by the independent consultants.

The information on the maps is still under development and is currently only considered suitable for emergency planning purposes. The maps give an indication of the broad areas likely to be susceptible to surface water flooding based upon an extreme summer rainfall event with no drainage systems working. The information is not sufficiently accurate to use for individual properties as the current version excludes, for example, the impact of buildings and kerb heights on surface water flows, which at the local level can be significant. There will be properties at risk from surface water flooding that will not be included within the outline areas on the maps, and possibly other individual properties within the areas outlined that are not at risk because of particular local features that the mapping process did not reflect.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* she, *(b)* other Ministers in the Government Equalities Office and *(c)* Government Equalities Office senior officials undertook in 2008. [262149]

Maria Eagle: In 2008 the Government Equalities Office incurred the following expenditure for overseas travel by its Ministers and senior officials:

	2008	
	Number of visits	*Expenditure (£)*
Minister for Equality	0	0
Other GEO Ministers	3	966
GEO Senior Officials	3	6,989
Total	6	7,955

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advertising: Competition

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make an assessment of the level of competitiveness of the UK online advertising market; and if he will make a statement. [276979]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has the largest advertising market in Europe[1] and online advertising is the fastest growing advertising medium in the UK. In 2008, UK online advertising was responsible for 19.2 per cent. of the UK advertising market—up from 15.5 per cent. in 2007[2].

The World Advertising Research Centre (WARC) has forecast that in 2009 total internet adspend in the UK will be £3.96 billion, overtaking the value of television advertising estimated at £3.83 billion.

The Government are committed to supporting the UK's creative industries. The Government's strategy for the Creative Economy, Creative Britain—New Talents for a New Economy, published in 2008, sets out a range of initiatives that will help provide the business support structures and skilled workforce needed to ensure the UK's creative industries remain highly competitive.

[1] source: The Advertising Statistics Yearbook 2008

[2] source: Internet Advertising Bureau.

Business: Regulation

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many regulations imposing costs on businesses were introduced in 2008. [261344]

Ian Pearson: The information on regulations is published on the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) website:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation

However, the overall number that affect business is not collated centrally.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether impact assessments have been carried out on all regulations affecting businesses which are due to come into force in April 2009. [261346]

Ian Pearson: All new regulatory changes introduced and published on BusinessLink:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/ccds

in April 2009 have impact assessments where required. The impact assessments can be found online on the Impact Assessment Library:

www.ialibrary.berr.gov.uk

or embedded within the Explanatory Memoranda for the relevant legislation published on the OPSI website:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation

EU Internal Trade

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of UK *(a)* exports to and *(b)* imports from other EU countries was (i) including and (ii) excluding the Rotterdam/Antwerp effect in each year since 1997. [277113]

Mr. Thomas: Office for National Statistics data for UK exports to and imports from the EU27 are shown in the following table.

£ million

	UK goods exports to the EU	*UK services exports to the EU*	*UK goods imports from the EU*	*UK services imports from the EU*
1998	99,336	—	105,048	—
1999	101,537	30,783	109,622	32,510
2000	112,459	33,718	117,644	35,356
2001	114,406	36,850	126,973	37,686
2002	114,737	38,306	136,931	39,715
2003	111,286	41,871	137,404	43,014
2004	111,650	46,037	142,523	45,517
2005	121,486	49,741	158,163	50,423
2006	152,357	53,828	183,748	52,579
2007	127,813	60,078	169,799	55,193
2008	141,136	66,740	180,322	57,954

For technical reasons associated with EU enlargement, consistent figures are not available for trade in 1997 or for services trade in 1998. For some periods, trade in goods figures were affected by transactions associated with missing trader VAT fraud, most notably in the first half of 2006.

No figures are available for the impact of the Rotterdam/Antwerp effect on statistics on UK trade with the Netherlands and Belgium compared with other countries; nor is it obvious how this affects statistics on trade with other EU countries compared with the rest of the world. HM Revenue and Customs regularly analyse asymmetries between UK trade statistics and those produced by other countries: in particular, in December 2005 they published a report called "Analysis of Asymmetries in intra-community trade statistics with particular regard to the impact of the Rotterdam and Antwerp effects" which can be found at:

www.uktradeinfo.com/pagecontent/documents/edicom_rotterdam_effect_2005.pdf

The ONS and HMRC keep the methodologies underlying trade statistics under review.

Exports: White Phosphorus

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Devizes of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W, on ammunition exports, to which companies the export licences were issued. [277075]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Export licence applications are made to the Government in confidence and, for that reason, the identities of the companies involved are not published.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W, on ammunition: exports, whether any of the transfers listed in the Government's annual and quarterly strategic export control reports since 1999 were for military devices containing white phosphorus. [277283]

Ian Pearson: As previously stated BERR's Export Control Organisation has identified 67 licences that have been issued since March 1999 for munitions that, like white phosphorous munitions, are designed to create illumination or act as an incendiary. Because the export licence application does not require the exporter to provide the chemical composition of munitions to be exported, it is not possible to say how many—if any—of those 67 related to the export of military devices containing white phosphorous.

Manufacturing Industries: Motor Vehicles

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Statement of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 165-67, on the automotive industry, how many motor manufacturers have since received loan guarantees. [260550]

Ian Pearson: The Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) received state aid clearance until 27 February. It opened for business on the same day. BERR held a seminar on 11 March to bring together industry, banks and the relevant trade bodies (including the SMMT) to make sure that the application process runs as smoothly and effectively as possible. No loan guarantees have yet been issued under the AAP, however we are in discussions with a number of companies who have expressed interest or made applications to the Programme.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Janet Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements his Department has made for the administration of the car scrappage scheme; what procedures are to be followed in deciding whether a car has been scrapped; and who will determine whether a car has been scrapped under the scheme. [276023]

Ian Pearson: Under the scheme, the onus on administration is placed with the manufacturers, using their existing relationships and systems for working with dealers. Dealers will be required to provide proof that the old vehicle has been scrapped in the form of a 'Certificate of Destruction' from an authorised treatment facility and will liaise with manufacturers on the paperwork. The manufacturers will then claim the money back from BERR. There will be a number of checks to ensure compliance with the scheme criteria and the scheme will be periodically and independently audited.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1406W, on motor vehicles: Government assistance, if his Department will provide assistance through the Automotive Assistance Programme to *(a)* GM Motors, *(b)* Opel and *(c)* Vauxhall. [276238]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 May 2009]:* We are in regular contact with GM, discussing a range of issues including how we can best continue to help the company in the UK. The access to AAP support by businesses such as *(a)* GM Motors, *(b)* Opel and *(c)* Vauxhall would depend on theirs meeting the programme criteria.

Small Businesses

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government has taken to fund small business growth. [245470]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* On 14 January 2009 we launched the Real Help for Business measures to support businesses in the current economic climate, building upon the commitments we made in the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008.

The £1.3 billion Enterprise Finance Guarantee supports lending to viable businesses that would otherwise not be available. As of 13 May 2009, over £375 million of eligible applications from over 3,340 firms has been granted, being processed or assessed.

With respect to the £75 million Capital for Enterprise equity scheme, the appointed fund managers have now made offers totalling around £6 million to four businesses and are continuing due diligence on the further proposals that have been put forward. The Working Capital Scheme, though not available directly to businesses, enables participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses with a turnover of up to £500 million.

We are also working with UK banks and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to maintain existing lending and make more credit available to SMEs. With the EIB, Government have helped UK banks to negotiate credit lines of more than £1 billion to provide loans to small and medium businesses. In addition the UK is the first country in the world to have negotiated legally binding lending commitments with banks receiving state support. RBS and Lloyds have committed to £39 billion of additional lending over the next 12 months; at least £6 billion of this is to SMEs. Both agreements are already in effect.

Small and medium-sized businesses can find information and support at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

Small Businesses: Bank Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of access to credit for small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [242742]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1456W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow, Central (Mr. Sarwar).

In relation to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, since its launch on 14 January, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has over £400 million of eligible applications from over 3,600 firms that have been granted, are being processed or assessed.

Visteon: Enfield

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department had discussions with Visteon UK Ltd *(a)* before and *(b)* after the closure of its plant in Enfield on the closure of that plant; what information his Department holds on redundancy and pension payments to former employees of that plant; and if he will make a statement. [272393]

Ian Pearson: BERR has been in contact with Visteon UK's management on a range of matters over a number of years, as the company has attempted to put its loss-making UK operations on a sound financial footing. BERR has received correspondence from Members of Parliament and others relating to the circumstances of UK Visteon plant closures which touch on redundancy and pensions matters and the issue was the subject of an Adjournment debate on 30 April. I am pleased to note that since the debate, the unions and Visteon Corporation have agreed a significantly improved redundancy package and that staff at the three Visteon UK plants voted overwhelmingly to accept it. I hope that the necessary payments can be made as soon as is possible to help those affected by the closures. The Department does not hold information on individuals.

Western Sahara: Overseas Trade

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 414W, on Morocco: overseas trade, what advice UK Trade and Investment has provided on Western Sahara. [276380]

Mr. Thomas: Some general advice on Western Sahara is contained in UK Trade and Investment's Portal pages on Morocco:

https://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/

No other advice has recently been given on Western Sahara.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in 2004; for what offences such penalties were issued; and what percentage of penalty notices for disorder were paid in each year. [276185]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

We are not able to identify how many and the percentage of those penalty notices which remain unpaid after (a) six and (b) 12 months, as it is not possible to provide separate enforcement rates for unpaid PNDs once they have been registered as fines by the courts.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice for the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) issued to persons in England and Wales aged 16 and over, by offence type, and the number paid within the suspended enforcement period, for the years 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are shown in the following tables 1 to 4.

Under the PND Scheme, recipients have 21 days (the suspended enforcement period) in which either to pay the penalty or opt to have their case heard in court. If no action is taken a fine of one and half times the penalty amount is registered against the recipient.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2004[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	%	*Paid in full within 21 days*	%	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	%
£80 Tickets issued							
Wasting police time	1,171	512	44	362	31	150	13
Misuse of public telecommunications system	117	52	44	36	31	16	14
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	44	18	41	15	34	3	7
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	28,790	14,306	50	10,240	36	4,066	14
Throwing fireworks	177	89	50	72	41	17	10
Drunk and disorderly	26,609	14,927	56	11,050	42	3,877	15
Criminal Damage (under £500)	1,190	681	57	528	44	153	13
Theft (retail under £200)	2,072	870	42	665	32	205	10
Breach of fireworks curfew	12	10	83	9	75	1	8
Possession of category 4 firework	12	5	42	1	8	4	33
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	20	10	50	9	45	1	5
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	113	74	65	62	55	12	11
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	84	55	65	49	58	6	7
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	20	9	45	4	20	5	25
£50 Tickets issued							
Trespass on a railway	96	48	50	30	31	18	19
Throwing stones at a train/railway	66	35	53	27	41	8	12
Drunk in a highway	2,497	1,233	49	860	34	373	15
Consumption of alcohol in public place	485	113	23	82	17	31	6
Depositing and leaving litter	51	25	49	19	37	6	12
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	7	3	43	3	43	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	6	3	50	3	50	—	—

Table 1: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2004[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
All offences	63,639	33,078	52	24,126	38	8,952	14

	Other outcomes									
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued										
Wasting police time	579	49	15	1	32	3	30	3	3	0
Misuse of public telecommunications system	58	50	2	2	5	4	—	—	—	—
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	22	50	—	—	2	5	1	2	1	2
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	13,125	46	205	1	666	2	366	1	122	0
Throwing fireworks	80	45	1	1	6	3	1	1	—	—
Drunk and disorderly	11,035	41	109	0	346	1	144	1	48	0
Criminal Damage (under £500)	481	40	5	0	14	1	5	0	4	0
Theft (retail under £200)	1,128	54	13	1	30	1	12	1	19	1
Breach of fireworks curfew	2	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession of category 4 firework	6	50	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	7	35	—	—	2	10	1	5	—	—
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	10	9	2	2	27	24	—	—	—	—
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	21	25	—	—	8	10	—	—	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	10	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
£50 Tickets issued										
Trespass on a railway	45	47	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Throwing stones at a train/railway	25	38	—	—	5	8	1	2	—	—
Drunk in a highway	1,166	47	6	0	75	3	9	0	8	0
Consumption of alcohol in public place	349	72	2	0	15	3	4	1	2	0
Depositing and leaving litter	25	49	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	4	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	2	33	—	—	1	17	—	—	—	—
All offences	28,180	44	360	1	1,237	2	575	1	209	0

— = nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis unit.

Table 2: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2005[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence code and description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	%	*Paid in full within 21 days*	%	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	%
£80 Tickets issued							
Wasting police time	2,525	1,199	47	890	35	309	12
Misuse of public telecommunications system	405	238	59	175	43	63	16
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	92	49	53	35	38	14	15
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	64,007	33,915	53	24,357	38	9,558	15
Throwing fireworks	642	347	54	253	39	94	15
Drunk and disorderly	37,038	20,862	56	15,420	42	5,442	15
Sale of alcohol to under 18	2,058	1,805	88	1,460	71	345	17
Purchasing alcohol for under 18	170	106	62	82	48	24	14
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises	83	59	71	48	58	11	13
Delivery of alcohol to under 18	209	128	61	106	51	22	11
Criminal Damage (under £500)	12,168	6,996	57	5,180	43	1,816	15
Theft (retail under £200)	21,997	9,057	41	6,965	32	2,092	10
Breach of fireworks curfew	33	18	55	13	39	5	15
Possession of category 4 firework	13	5	38	4	31	1	8
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	47	29	62	21	45	8	17
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	32	24	75	13	41	11	34
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	3	2	66	1	33	1	33
£50 Tickets issued							
Trespass on a railway	220	97	44	75	34	22	10
Throwing stones at a train / railway	20	13	65	9	45	4	20
Drunk in a highway	3,138	1,669	53	1,255	40	414	13
Consumption of alcohol in public place	712	168	24	113	16	55	8
Depositing and leaving litter	737	368	50	274	37	94	13
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on licensed premises	84	66	79	54	64	12	14
Allowing consumption of alcohol for under 18	27	14	52	9	33	5	19
Buying alcohol by under 18	21	13	62	11	52	2	10
Total all offences	146,481	77,247	53	56,823	39	20,424	14

	Other outcomes									
Offence code and description	*Fine registered*	%	*Court hearing requested*	%	*PND cancelled*	%	*Potential prosecution*	%	*Outcome unknown*	%
£80 Tickets issued										
Wasting police time	1,161	46	41	2	50	2	44	2	30	1
Misuse of public telecommunications system	140	35	7	2	10	2	7	2	3	1
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	38	41	2	2	—	—	3	3	—	—
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	26,754	42	706	1	1,251	2	808	1	573	1
Throwing fireworks	271	42	6	1	8	1	6	1	4	1
Drunk and disorderly	14,459	39	488	1	504	1	472	1	253	1
Sale of alcohol to under 18	211	10	5	0	30	1	4	0	3	0
Purchasing alcohol for under 18	60	35	—	—	2	1	1	1	1	1

			Other outcomes							
Offence code and description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
Purchasing alcohol for under 18 for consumption on premises	23	28	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to under 18	70	33	3	1	5	2	2	1	1	0
Criminal Damage (under £500)	4,702	39	107	1	161	1	123	1	79	1
Theft (retail under £200)	11,927	54	187	1	301	1	292	1	233	1
Breach of fireworks curfew	14	42	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
Possession of category 4 firework	8	62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	15	32	1	2	1	2	—	—	1	2
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	6	19	1	3	—	—	1	3	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	1	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
£50 Tickets issued										
Trespass on a railway	115	52	—	—	3	1	2	1	3	1
Throwing stones at a train / railway	5	25	—	—	1	5	1	5	—	—
Drunk in a highway	1,339	43	18	1	59	2	31	1	22	1
Consumption of alcohol in public place	499	70	7	1	26	4	3	0	9	1
Depositing and leaving litter	325	44	8	1	23	3	5	1	8	1
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on licensed premises	16	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Allowing consumption of alcohol for under 18	12	44	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buying alcohol by under 18	8	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total all offences	62,179	42	1,588	1	2,437	2	1,805	1	1,225	1

— = nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis unit.

Table 3: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2006[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued							
Wasting police time	3,933	1,911	49	1,355	34	556	14
Misuse of public telecommunications system	909	523	58	388	43	135	15
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	106	43	41	35	33	8	8
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	82,235	43,120	52	30,757	37	12,363	15
Throwing fireworks	682	380	56	267	39	113	17
Drunk and disorderly	43,556	24,673	57	18,123	42	6,550	15
Criminal Damage (under £500)	20,620	11,351	55	8,342	40	3,009	15
Theft (retail under £200)	38,772	16,169	42	12,370	32	3,799	10
Breach of fireworks curfew	53	34	64	27	51	7	13
Possession of category 4 firework	28	12	43	9	32	3	11

Table 3: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2006[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	76	51	67	34	45	17	22
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	47	35	74	29	62	6	13
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	60	53	88	41	68	12	20
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	3,195	2,756	86	2,354	74	402	13
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	407	268	66	213	52	55	14
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	60	39	65	35	58	4	7
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	297	176	59	132	44	44	15
£50 Tickets issued							
Trespass on a railway	1,042	551	53	320	31	231	22
Throwing stones at a train/ railway	15	6	40	5	33	1	7
Drunk in a highway	2,712	1,433	53	1,064	39	369	14
Consumption of alcohol in public place	1,061	252	24	165	16	87	8
Depositing and leaving litter	1,169	593	51	427	37	166	14
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	75	55	73	46	61	9	12
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	14	10	71	10	71	—	—
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	73	52	71	43	59	9	12
All offences	201,197	104,546	52	76,591	38	27,955	14

			Other outcomes							
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued										
Wasting police time	1,787	45	44	1	108	3	81	2	2	0
Misuse of public telecommunications system	319	35	14	2	26	3	24	3	3	0
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	52	49	—	—	6	6	5	5	—	—
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	35,154	43	780	1	1,914	2	1,126	1	141	0
Throwing fireworks	264	39	5	1	23	3	10	1	—	—
Drunk and disorderly	16,919	39	269	1	886	2	725	2	84	0
Criminal Damage (under £500)	8,492	41	134	1	324	2	287	1	32	0
Theft (retail under £200)	21,157	55	203	1	732	2	392	1	119	0
Breach of fireworks curfew	16	30	1	2	1	2	—	—	1	2
Possession of category 4 firework	15	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	21	28	—	—	3	4	1	1	—	—
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	9	19	1	2	2	4	—	—	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	7	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	390	12	6	0	30	1	10	0	3	0
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	122	30	1	0	10	2	6	1	—	—

			Other outcomes							
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	20	33	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	99	33	3	1	14	5	3	1	2	1
£50 Tickets issued										
Trespass on a railway	463	44	2	0	19	2	6	1	1	0
Throwing stones at a train/railway	6	40	—	—	2	13	—	—	1	7
Drunk in a highway	1,158	43	7	0	94	3	16	1	4	0
Consumption of alcohol in public place	749	71	7	1	45	4	6	1	2	0
Depositing and leaving litter	536	46	3	0	26	2	10	1	1	0
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	17	23	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	4	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	20	27	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
All offences	87,796	44	1,480	1	4,268	2	2,710	1	397	0

— = nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis unit.

Table 4: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2007[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued							
Wasting police time	3,966	1,862	47	1,384	35	478	12
Misuse of public telecommunications system	1,193	670	56	526	44	144	12
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	96	55	57	38	40	17	18
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	77,827	40,357	52	30,761	40	9,596	12
Throwing fireworks	649	374	58	290	45	84	13
Drunk and disorderly	46,996	26,367	56	19,727	42	6,640	14
Criminal Damage (under £500)	19,946	11,072	56	8,401	42	2,671	13
Theft (retail under £200)	45,146	19,111	42	15,390	34	3,721	8
Breach of fireworks curfew	39	25	64	20	51	5	13
Possession of category 4 firework	22	10	45	7	32	3	14
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	106	67	63	57	54	10	9
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	81	64	79	50	62	14	17
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	54	41	76	31	57	10	19
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	3,583	3,074	86	2,623	73	451	13
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	555	320	58	244	44	76	14
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	64	31	48	23	36	8	13

Table 4: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, by Offence and Outcome, England and Wales 2007[1]

				Of those paid			
Offence description	*Number issued*	*Total paid in full*	*%*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*%*	*Paid in full outside 21 days*	*%*
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	431	268	62	219	51	49	11
£50 Tickets issued							
Trespass on a railway	1,527	780	51	441	29	339	22
Throwing stones at a train/ railway	25	13	52	11	44	2	8
Drunk in a highway	2,066	1,146	55	942	46	204	10
Consumption of alcohol in public place	1,544	328	21	259	17	69	4
Depositing and leaving litter	1,374	705	51	541	39	164	12
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	85	67	79	55	65	12	14
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	11	9	82	8	73	1	9
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	158	109	69	85	54	24	15
All offences	207,544	106,925	52	82,133	40	24,792	12

	Other outcomes									
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
£80 Tickets issued										
Wasting police time	1,807	46	34	1	122	3	140	4	1	0
Misuse of public telecommunications system	431	36	17	1	43	4	32	3	—	—
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	37	39	—	—	3	3	1	1	—	—
Causing Harassment, alarm or distress	33,021	42	626	1	2,210	3	1,577	2	36	0
Throwing fireworks	223	34	9	1	30	5	13	2	—	—
Drunk and disorderly	18,161	39	244	1	1,038	2	1,177	3	9	0
Criminal Damage (under £500)	7,979	40	112	1	384	2	393	2	6	0
Theft (retail under £200)	24,344	54	172	0	988	2	507	1	24	0
Breach of fireworks curfew	13	33	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—
Possession of category 4 firework	10	45	—	—	2	9	—	—	—	—
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	31	29	1	1	5	5	2	2	—	—
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	9	11	3	4	2	2	3	4	—	—
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	11	20	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	405	11	13	0	69	2	22	1	—	—
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	211	38	4	1	14	3	5	1	1	0
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	22	34	—	—	10	16	1	2	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	138	32	1	0	19	4	5	1	—	—
£50 Tickets issued										
Trespass on a railway	675	44	—	—	45	3	26	2	1	0
Throwing stones at a train/railway	10	40	—	—	2	8	—	—	—	—
Drunk in a highway	788	38	8	0	94	5	30	1	—	—

					Other outcomes					
Offence description	*Fine registered*	*%*	*Court hearing requested*	*%*	*PND cancelled*	*%*	*Potential prosecution*	*%*	*Outcome unknown*	*%*
Consumption of alcohol in public place	1,090	71	6	0	87	6	32	2	1	0
Depositing and leaving litter	589	43	2	0	64	5	13	1	1	0
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	16	19	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	1	9	—	—	1	9	—	—	—	—
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	35	22	—	—	13	8	1	1	—	—
All offences	90,057	43	1,253	1	5,249	3	3,980	2	80	0

— = nil.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis unit.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK nationals of each nationality who had served in the armed forces have acquired UK citizenship in each of the last 10 years. [277319]

Mr. Woolas: A person's employment details are not recorded on the UK Border Agency's computer database as part of a citizenship application. As such, the information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Iraq

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi citizens settled in the UK in each year of the Gateway Protection Programme. [276559]

Mr. Woolas: The UK's refugee resettlement programme, the Gateway Protection Programme, has made provision for a total of 1,000 Iraqi nationals to be resettled to the UK between 1 April 2008 and end March 2010.

In 2008, 236 Iraqi nationals were resettled to the UK through the Gateway Protection Programme. As of 18 May 2009, 212 Iraqi nationals have been resettled to the UK through the Gateway Protection Programme in 2009.

Borders: Enforcement

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many enforcement visits the UK Border Agency made in each year since 2005; how many arrests were made in the course of such visits; and how many such visits resulted in no arrests being made. [271979]

Jacqui Smith: The records held by the UK Border Agency break down these figures by financial year rather than by calendar year and are provided in the following table.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

The UK Border Agency adopts an intelligence and target led approach to operations and our top priority has been to protect the public and remove from the UK the most harmful people first. Based on UK Border Agency management information 5,395 foreign national prisoners were removed in 2008—exceeding our target of 5,000.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of enforcement visits	11,861	14,443	15,512	13,555
Number of arrests made	12,412	11,522	10,750	10,063
Visits with no arrests	6,976	8,793	9,975	8,362

Demonstrations: Kingsnorth

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 810, when she expects to receive the report of the National Policing Improvement Agency on the policing of the Kingsnorth climate camp; and if she will make a statement. [276046]

Mr. Coaker: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the Association of Chief Police Officers are overseeing a review that has been commissioned by the chief constable of Kent into the policing of the 'Climate Camp for Change' at Kingsnorth. This follows a debrief on the operation provided to Kent police by the NPIA in January 2009.

The review is due to report in June and wider circulation of any findings and learning points will be considered at that stage.

DNA: Databases

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the age is of the youngest person *(a)* whose DNA is retained and *(b)* whose profile is held on the national DNA database; [266915]

(2) what steps she has taken to ensure that *(a)* DNA samples of children aged under 10 years have been destroyed and *(b)* DNA profiles of children aged under 10 years have been removed from the national DNA database. [266916]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Secretary announced on 16 December 2008 that the DNA profiles of all children aged under 10 (taken by England and Wales police forces) would be removed from the National DNA Database (NDNAD). The removal of these profiles has now been completed. The youngest person whose DNA profile is held on the NDNAD (and who had their DNA sample taken by a force in England and Wales) is aged 10.

A DNA sample may only be taken from a child under 10 with the consent of a parent or guardian. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, (PACE), as amended, provides that such samples taken voluntarily must be destroyed once they have fulfilled the purpose for which they were taken. The youngest person whose DNA sample has been retained, but not profiled on the NDNAD, is aged under one.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1236W, on genetics: databases, how many and what proportion of people with profiles on the national DNA database were recorded on the Police National Computer as having a conviction in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement; [271074]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of people with profiles on the national DNA database who are recorded on the Police National Computer as having a conviction; and if she will make a statement. [271075]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) is designed to match DNA taken from crime scenes with that taken from individuals. It does not hold information on whether those with records on it have convictions, as this is not necessary for this purpose. It is therefore not possible to provide information on the number and proportion of people on the NDNAD who were recorded as having a conviction on the Police National Computer (PNC) in each of the last 10 years. Some data on whether those on the NDNAD have convictions are available from PNC, but not as part of its routine functions and not within the cost limit for parliamentary questions. However, the National Policing Improvement Agency does obtain this information periodically.

The most recent figures available for England and Wales show that at 24 April 2009 there were an estimated 4,587,430 persons on the NDNAD, of whom 79 per cent. (an estimated 3,601,245 persons) had a current conviction, caution, formal warning or reprimand recorded on PNC. The remaining 21 per cent. (an estimated 986,185 persons) includes those people who have been convicted and have had their records deleted, and those against whom proceedings are still ongoing, as well as those who have never been convicted.

Domestic Violence: Departmental Co-ordination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution *(a)* the Department of Health and *(b)* the Department for Children, Schools and Families made to the preparation of her Department's consultation paper, Together we can end violence against women and children. [277681]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families liaised closely with the Home Office to prepare the cross-Government consultation paper entitled "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls". Both Departments are part of the cross-Government steering group for Violence Against Women and Girls which met regularly in the run-up to consultation launch.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many actions under employment law were brought against her Department in each of the last three years, broken down by category of action; and how many were contested by the Department at an employment tribunal. [275625]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* Details of claims brought under employment law in each of the last three years against the Home Office, including the UK Border Agency and the Criminal Records Bureau, is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Employment tribunal claims brought against Home Office HQ, UKBA and CRB

Category of claim	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Age discrimination	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Disability discrimination	9	15	17
Race discrimination	4	7	10
Sex discrimination	5	10	8
Sexual orientation	2	0	[2]—
Unfair/Constructive dismissal	31	35	28
Unlawful deduction of wages	5	6	10
Religion of belief	0	[2]—	[2]—
Victimisation	0	[2]—	[2]—
Redundancy payment	0	0	[2]—
Less favourable treatment under fixed term employee regulations	[2]—	0	0
Loss of earnings	0	0	[2]—
Equal pay	[2]—	0	0
Other[3]	[2]—	0	[2]—
Total employment tribunal claims	60	77	82
Total contested at an employment tribunal hearing	14	18	58

[1] Information includes any claims made by former Home Office staff who transferred to the Ministry of Justice on 1 May 2007.

[2] Less than 5.

[3] Nature of claim unavailable.

Notes:

1. Where more than one category of claim was cited on the claim, the claim has been counted once in the table using the primary reason for the claim.
2. Where less than five claims were made under a category, further information is withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

The Identity and Passport Service does not centrally hold the information requested, which could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

European Network for the Protection of Public Figures

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution the UK makes in the European Network for the Protection of Public Figures. [277245]

Mr. Coaker: The UK has played a full role in the work of the European Network since its inception in 2002.

Europol

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions UK police forces have participated in Europol operations in the last five years. [277118]

Mr. Coaker: Europol does not conduct operations in any country. It exists to support investigations carried out by law enforcement authorities in the member states by facilitating the exchange of information and collating and analysing information and intelligence in relation to those investigations.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which aspects of the Europol system the UK participates. [277120]

Mr. Coaker: The United Kingdom is a significant participant in all intelligence aspects of Europol. Our liaison bureau at Europol, which is one of the largest, is responsible for handling the exchange of information between Europol and the United Kingdom Europol National Unit, which is based at the Serious and Organised Crime Agency. The UK liaison bureau also manages bilateral exchanges and cooperation between other member state liaison bureaux. The United Kingdom has a record of providing high quality data to the Europol Information System and is a major contributor to Europol's programme of 'serious crime analysis work files'.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what crimes Europol may investigate; and on what legal basis in each case. [277121]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Europol was established by a convention based on article K.3 of the treaty on European Union. It does not carry out criminal investigations in its own right but operates to improve the effectiveness and co-operation of the competent authorities in the member states in preventing and combating terrorism and other forms of serious crime. Specifically, Europol's competence covers illegal money laundering activity, and preventing and combating terrorism, drug trafficking and other serious forms of international crime when there are indications that an organised criminal structure is at work and when two or more member states are affected by the criminality in question in such a way as to require a common approach by the member states involved.

Extradition: USA

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British nationals in respect of whom legal proceedings have been concluded have been extradited to the United States since 1 January 2004; and for which offence each such individual was extradited. [274815]

Mr. Coaker: Between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2008, 28 UK nationals arrested in England and Wales were extradited to the USA, for offences broken down as follows:

Type of offence	*Number of cases*
Drugs	10
Fraud	8
Murder	3
Sexual offences	2
Theft	2
Grievous bodily harm	1
Money laundering	1
Forgery	1

The figures do not include the number of UK nationals extradited to the USA who were arrested in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Female Genital Mutilation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her Department takes of the risk of female genital mutilation in women's country of origin when assessing their asylum claims. [276648]

Mr. Woolas: All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with the UK's obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The consideration of a claim includes where relevant, any fear of genital mutilation that may be raised by the applicant.

When fear of genital mutilation forms part of the claim, consideration is given to whether there is evidence that this practice is knowingly tolerated by the authorities in the country of origin, or whether they are unable to offer protection, and whether there is a reasonable possibility of the applicant avoiding the threat for example by moving elsewhere in the country.

Foreign Workers: Health Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses from each country of origin have been granted residency in the UK for each of the last three years. [275059]

Mr. Woolas: A foreign national is deemed to have been granted residency when he or she has been granted Leave to Enter (LTE) the UK for more than six months. Prior entry clearance is mandatory for all persons seeking LTE for such a period. Before the phased introduction of the Points Based System in 2008, foreign national doctors and nurses who were qualified to practise in the UK were required to apply for entry clearance as work permit holders. Data held centrally about such entry clearance applications do not include the applicant's profession. We could therefore only provide the information requested by searching individual records, which would be at disproportionate cost.

House of Commons: Right of Search

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Essex of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1830W, on the House of Commons: right of search, what consideration she has given to *(a)* obtaining and *(b)* placing in the Library a copy of the final report of the review conducted by Chief Constable Ian Johnston of the British Transport Police on the arrest and investigation of the hon. Member for Ashford since the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service not to bring charges in the case; and if she will make a statement. [276943]

Mr. Coaker: The report is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and I have no plans to call for a copy of it.

Human Trafficking

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those arrested in relation to Operation Greensea in respect of whom legal proceedings have been completed were *(a)* convicted and *(b)* deported. [276007]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

(a) On 31 January 2008, 12 individuals were arrested on suspicion of facilitating illegal immigration into the United Kingdom as a result of Operation Greensea. Of these 12, six have been convicted, three are currently on trial, and the others have been released or have been charged with separate offences.

Subsequently, three additional men were arrested in relation to Operation Greensea, and are also on trial.

(b) The UK Border Agency is committed to ensuring that it removes those foreign nationals who pose a risk of harm to our society. Our objective is that foreign national prisoners should face deportation when they meet the relevant criteria and that deportation should happen as early as possible in their sentence.

In 2008, the agency deported or removed 5,395 foreign national prisoners, exceeding the Government set target. As confirmed in its 2009-10 business plan, the UK Border Agency will continue to deport or remove record numbers of foreign criminals.

Identity Cards

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the outstanding cost to the public purse of the introduction of the National Identity Card Scheme. [276487]

Mr. Woolas: The May 2009 Cost Report details our current estimated costs for the National Identity Service at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/
docA_IPS_cost_reportpercent202009_v11_BM.pdf

The estimated total resource costs for providing passports and identity cards to British and Irish citizens resident in the UK for the time period April 2009 to April 2019 is £4,945 million. This figure includes the current costs of operating the passport service, the incremental costs of improving the integrity of the passport and the costs of identity cards. It does not reflect the fee income which will be generated from both passports and identity cards to fund the operational cost of the National Identity Service.

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the factual basis is for the Minister for Borders and Immigration's statement in his answer on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1192, on illegal immigrants, that the trend of removals is significantly up. [277069]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 June 2009]*: The following table shows the total number of removals and voluntary departures in each year between 2005 and 2008:

Removals and voluntary departures[1, 2] January 2005 to December 2008

				Number[1]
	2005	2006	2007[3]	2008[4]
Total removals and voluntary departures	58,215	63,865	63,365	66,275
Change compared to previous year (percentage)	—	10	-1	5

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

[2] Includes persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. Statistics from 2005 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier years.

[3] Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

[4] Provisional figures.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were detained at their point of entry to the UK in the last month for which figures are available; and how many of them admitted they were entering the country illegally. [277130]

Mr. Woolas: In April 2009, 767 people were recorded at ports as having illegally entered the UK. In such cases, passengers are initially detained at the Point of Entry.

The data provided are based on locally-collated management information, which may be subject to change and do not represent published national statistics.

The UK Border Agency does not routinely record whether an illegal entrant admits they were attempting to enter the UK illegally.

Immigration

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by the UK Border Agency to process an application for indefinite leave to remain was in the latest period for which information is available. [276372]

Mr. Woolas: The average time taken by the UK Border Agency to process an application for indefinite leave to remain for the period 1 April-30 April 2009 was three months.

Data relate to lead applicants only.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They therefore provisional and subject to change.

Source:

UKBA Case Information Database.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the letter of 14 January 2009 from the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency to the hon. Member for Wellingborough regarding Mr. Nicholas Mazordze, what steps were taken to resolve the case within 14 days of the date of that letter; and with reference to the letter of 5 May 2009 from the Minister of State to the hon. Member for Wellingborough also regarding Mr. Mazordze, what steps were taken to resolve the case within two weeks of the date of that letter. [276938]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 June 2009]*: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency provides regularly updates on the progress taken in deporting foreign national criminals. However, she is unable to comment on individual cases raised in a parliamentary question.

Immigration: Children

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to develop community-based alternatives to detention for children subject to immigration control. [276131]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are exploring alternative options to detention of children to ensure the removal of those families who refuse to leave the country voluntarily when they no longer have a legal right to be here.

A new pilot project to encourage refused asylum seeker families in Glasgow to return voluntarily to their home country is to start at the beginning of June. The pilot is a partnership between Glasgow City Council, the UK Border Agency and the Scottish Government.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the turnover rate of staff of each grade employed by the Independent Police Complaints Commission was in each year since its creation; [277139]

(2) how many employees of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age (i) entered and (ii) left employment of the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each year since its creation. [277140]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold the information requested as these are matters primarily for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in fulfilling its statutory functions under the Police Reform Act 2002. The IPCC will respond to the hon. Member direct.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 11 February 2009, with regard to Ms A. Dar. [269338]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 20 April 2009.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of police officers required to police the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [273246]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is committed to making the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games safe and secure. On 25 February the Government approved a 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Safety and Security Strategy and accompanying 2012 National Concept of Operations.

Delivering the strategy will require the deployment of substantial numbers of police officers additional to normal day to day requirements. We are working with police forces and the Association of Chief Police Officers to refine this requirement. We cannot give a definitive estimate at this stage in the planning, which will always also need to remain flexible to changes in the risks the games face. At peak times of the games we currently anticipate deployment to be broadly similar to events such as the Notting Hill Carnival, which last year involved some 11,000 tours of duty by Metropolitan Police officers over the bank holiday weekend.

Planning decisions on police numbers will need to take into account both the operational requirement and the need to demonstrate affordability and value for money within the overall £600 million funding envelope. These decisions will be consistent with the risk-based and intelligence-led approach set out in our strategy.

Police Community Support Officers: Costs

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much police community support officers cost in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [273266]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collect this information but makes an annual contribution towards the cost of Police Community Support Officer (PCSOs) as part of the specific grant payable to police authorities in England and Wales for Neighbourhood Policing. For

2009-10 the grant will amount to £332 million in total, of which £294 million is specifically provided to support the costs of PCSOs.

Information gathered independently of the Home Office and published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) indicates that for 2007-08, the cost of salaries, allowances and national insurance for PCSOs in England and Wales was £417 million.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Independent Police Complaints Commission has the power to investigate complaints about alleged unlawful conduct by serving police officers. [276910]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 June 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 863W.

Police: Databases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to validate the accuracy of data entered on the *(a)* Police National Computer and *(b)* PentiP computer system. [276905]

Mr. Coaker: Data are entered on to the Police National Computer (PNC) by the police service and a number of other authorised agencies for specific purposes relating to law enforcement. Data quality are managed via:

A statutory code of practice, 'The Police National Computer'

PNC Code of Connection

PNC Manual

In addition, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary inspects police forces' use of the PNC.

The PentiP system has yet to be delivered.

Police: G20

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the latest estimate is of the cost of policing the G20 summit in April 2009; and how much of this cost was incurred in undertaking public order policing relating to demonstrations. [276157]

Mr. Coaker: The Metropolitan Police Service inform me that the current estimate of the cost of policing the G20 summit is £7.5 million. It is not possible at this stage to disaggregate the public order costs from the total costs of the operation.

Police: Retirement

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers who retired from police forces at the rank of *(a)* assistant chief constable and above and *(b)* assistant commissioner and above and who are in receipt of a police pension are employed in authorities and agencies for which she is responsible. [268908]

Mr. Coaker: Information in respect of Home Office headquarters and Executive Agencies is not held centrally. Home Office sponsored non-departmental public bodies employ a total of 10 former police officers who retired at the rank of assistant chief constable and above or at assistant commissioner and above or at equivalent ranks. It is not recorded whether these employees are in receipt of a police pension.

Police: Stun Guns

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces made requests before November 2008 to her Department to fund the purchase of Tasers. [273636]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office routinely discusses police funding issues, including Taser, with individual forces, the Association of Chief Police Officers and police staff associations.

Schengen Agreement

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which aspects of the Schengen system the UK participates. [277125]

Mr. Coaker: The UK participates in the police and judicial co-operation aspects of the Schengen acquis in accordance with the European Union Council Decision of 29 May 2000 concerning the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis (2000/365/EC). The UK does not participate in the provisions of the Schengen acquis relating to visas and borders, having taken the decision that we wished to maintain our own frontier controls.

Smuggling: Heathrow Airport

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of travellers using Heathrow airport were stopped and searched by HM Revenue and Customs in 2008; how many of those were found to be smuggling; and if she will make a statement. [276927]

Mr. Woolas: During 2008, responsibility for searching passengers moved to the UK Border Agency. Location specific statistics are not published as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

National Statistics regarding Search of Person are outlined on page 47 of the HMRC autumn report which can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/autumn-report-2008

Terrorism

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to paragraph 9.09 of the UK's Strategy for Countering International Terrorism, published in March 2009, what the cost of the key deliverables in the Prevent Delivery Plan *(a)* has been in each year since 2003 and *(b)* is expected to be in 2009-10. [277359]

Mr. Coaker: Prior to 2008-09 the Home Office did not collate financial data on the cost of key deliverables in the Prevent Delivery Plan.

The cost of Prevent key deliverables during 2008-09 was estimated at £157 million. This is an estimate which was provided at the beginning of the financial year, and may not reflect actual spend. The delivery plan only contains the estimated cost of key deliverables and does not represent total spending on Prevent.

The key deliverables for 2009-10 are still in development, with spend currently estimated at £81 million.

Terrorism: Internet

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 156W, on community relations: internet, what material has been classified by her Department as unlawful under the Terrorism Act 2006 to date; and what routine discussions her Department has had with the European Commission on such classifications. [277308]

Mr. Coaker: The material concerned is that which may be unlawful under sections 1 and 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

No discussions have been held with the European Commission specifically on this matter. Use of the internet for radicalisation to violent extremism in Europe is the subject of ongoing Commission-supported discussions.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers her Department has to *(a)* order the closure of websites hosted in the UK which display material considered by her Department to be unlawful under the Terrorism Act 2006 and *(b)* to restrict the activities of owners of such sites. [277341]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has no such powers. Under section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2006 a police constable may issue a notice to an internet service provider that requires unlawful terrorism-related material to be removed or modified within two working days. Failure to do so is not an offence in itself but removes the defence of non-endorsement to charges under sections 1 and 2 of the Act.

Owners of websites containing unlawful material may commit offences under sections 1 or 2 of the Terrorism Act 2006 (publishing a statement that encourages others directly or indirectly to the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism, or dissemination of terrorist publications).

Vetting

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirements there are on the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) for completion of a CRB check within a specified period of time; and what the average time taken to complete such a check was in the latest period for which figures are available. [276314]

Mr. Coaker: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include issuing 90 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within 28 days.

Data concerning the average time taken to complete a Disclosure are not a performance target and are not collated by the CRB. Average figures do not give an accurate indication of performance, since any force's performance can be affected by a number of factors, including the volume of cases sent to a force to process in any given month, the number of staff available to process the checks and the IT resources on hand to forces. With these variables, performance can fluctuate within individual forces from one month to the next.

Between April 2008 and March 2009 the CRB issued 396,000 Standard Disclosures and 3,459,000 Enhanced Disclosures. During this period the CRB exceeded its targets for Standard Disclosures with a cumulative total of 99.1 per cent. issued within 10 days but did not meet PSS for Enhanced Disclosures, issuing 88.6 per cent. within 28 days. The principal reason for this has been the high volume of Disclosures that have been presented for processing. This has put a great deal of pressure on the police Disclosure Units involved in the processing of Enhanced Disclosures.

An improvement plan has been initiated aimed at reducing the volume of outstanding work at police forces and number of aged cases, which are those applications that have been outstanding for longer than 25 days. This improvement plan has contributed towards a steady decline in the number of these cases over recent months.

There are a number of other factors which can affect the timely completion of checks, including but not restricted to the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application; the accurate completion of the Disclosure application form; the clarity of the information provided and the existence of conviction or non-conviction information.

To explain further, Enhanced Disclosures must include any local police force information which, in the chief officer's opinion, might be relevant to the application and ought to be included in the Disclosure. Such decisions must balance the need to protect a person's right to privacy with the need to protect the public from potential harm and therefore require careful consideration. Consequently, some applications can take longer to deal with.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many breaches of security have been reported at the *(a)* National Weights and Measures Laboratory and *(b)* UK Intellectual Property Office in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276953]

Mr. Lammy: The National Measurement Office (previously the National Weights and Measures Laboratory) has had no breaches of security reported in the last five years.

If a breach of security involving disclosure of personal data were to occur, the National Measurement Office has procedures in place to deal with the consequences, developed with the Department, that reflect current Cabinet Office guidance and standards.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on financial penalties for higher education institutions that over-recruit for the 2009-10 academic year; and when information on such penalties will be provided to higher education institutions. [277845]

Mr. Lammy: This is not a question of imposing financial penalties, but rather of ensuring the quality of the student experience and providing student support to all those who need it. If universities over-recruit, both of these objectives are put at risk. The Secretary of State wrote to HEFCE on 29 October setting out his plans for additional student numbers in 2009/10 and asking the Council to minimise and preferably eliminate over-recruitment by HE Institutions in that year. HEFCE wrote to institutions on 10 November 2008, asking them to review their recruitment plans for the following year. We have said that any over recruitment in the coming year could result in a transfer of HEFCE grant back to this Department in that or future years. HEFCE will pass this transfer on to over-recruiting universities according to the extent of their over recruitment.

Natural Environment Research Council: Shipping

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many ships and boats have been *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased and *(c)* hired by or on behalf of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in each of the last three financial years; how many operational days each of those vessels has spent at sea at the NERC's expense; and how much the NERC spent on purchasing, hiring and leasing such vessels in each such year. [277261]

Mr. Lammy: The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) owns, leases and hires a number of vessels. These vessels are used for a number of purposes, including, for example, taking samples from lakes, and monitoring/surveying coastal areas. Data for ships (defined as a vessel above 40 tonnes and 40 feet in length) are provided in the following table.

Hire of smaller boats for activities such as lake sampling are arranged locally under NERC purchasing guidelines on best value for money but the information is not held centrally by NERC.

		Operational Days[1]			*Cost of purchasing, hiring or leasing (£000)*		
Ship name		*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
RRS James Cook[2]	Owned	[3]314	[3]357	[3]413	0	0	0
RRS Discovery[2]	Owned	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	0	0	0
RRS James Clark Ross[4]	Owned	294	336	267	0	0	0
RRS Ernest Shackleton[4]	Leased[5]	329	321	309	[6]3,322	[6]3,364	[6]3,356
RV Prince Madog[7]	Hired	78	95	54	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] Data from NERC's Ship Management Review, which reported to NERC Council in February 2009. A breakdown on days on Cook/Discovery was not recorded.
[2] Operated by the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton (NOCS). RRS James Cook came into service in September 2006.
[3] Denotes brace
[4] Operated by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS).
[5] Under a PFI arrangement.
[6] Includes insurance costs.
[7] The RV Prince Madog is a recognised NERC facility operated by VT Ocean Sciences and is available to the NERC community on a 'pay-as-you-go' basis. NERC has no record of the precise costs, which are negotiated between scientists and the RV Madog operator within limits defined within research grants. The basic charter day rate cost is likely to have been in the region of £5,000 per day during this period.

As well as owning, leasing and hiring a number of boats and ships, NERC also has barter arrangements with other international operators of ocean-going research ships, which allows for NERC to use its partners' research ships. These barter arrangements allow for the barter exchange of ship-time between partners without there being any transfer of money. In the calendar years 2006, 2007 and 2008, NERC used its barter arrangements to secure 118 days, four days, 72 days, respectively, of ship-time on its barter partners' research ships. More information on the European barter arrangements can be found at:

http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk/ofeg/pages/ofeg/index.php

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan and Iraq

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred in *(a)* Afghanistan since 2001 and *(b)* Iraq since 2003; how much his Department has paid to private security companies for services provided in each year in (i) Afghanistan since 2001 and (ii) Iraq since 2003; and what the monetary value of each contract his Department has with private security companies in each such country is. [275436]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* Calculating the total Foreign and Commonwealth Office expenditure incurred in Afghanistan since 2001 and in Iraq since 2003 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The amount the FCO has paid to private security companies for services in Afghanistan and Iraq is as follows:

	£ million
Iraq	
2003-04	16.8
2004-05	49.5
2005-06	47.8
2006-07	30.4
2007-08	26.0
2008-09	29.02

	£ million
Afghanistan	
2004	4.0
2005	4.0
2006	15.0
2007	19.6
2008-09	18.54

The value of each private security contract for 2008-09 is as follows:

Company	*Purpose*	*Period*	*Value (£)*
Iraq			
Control Risks	Mobile Security	July 2008 to June 2009	20,997,006
GardaWorld	Static Security	July 2008 to June 2009	5,743,464
Minimal Risks	Intelligence Analysts	October 2007 to September 2008	867,475
Armor Group	Vehicle Maintenance	February 2009 to February 1010	378,153
Minimal Risks	Overseas Security Managers[1]	April 2008 to March 2009	1,035,192
Afghanistan			
Armor Group	Mobile Security	April 2008 to March 2009	12,836,451
Armor Group	Static Security	April 2008 to March 2009	4,702,461
Armor Group	Vehicle Maintenance	April 2008 to March 2009	251,787
Armor Group	Police Mentors and Advisers	April 2008 to March 2009	317,530
Edinburgh International	Primary Healthcare	January to December 2008	361,162
Minimal Risks	Intelligence Advisers	November 2008 to March 2009	74,706

[1] Iraq and Afghanistan combined

The information above covers contracts put in place by the FCO in London with private security companies, and reflects the contract values concerned and not the actual spend.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what allowances in addition to basic salary are paid to civilian employees of his Department working in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [275457]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays the following financial allowances to those of its staff who are UK civil servants serving in Iraq or Afghanistan in addition to basic salary:

Cost of Living Addition (COLA)—compensation for the extra costs of maintaining a UK standard of living at post.

Diplomatic Service Compensation Allowance (DSCA)—compensation for the extra cost of living in a difficult, isolated, dangerous or unhealthy location, for the disruption cause by a global mobility obligation and for representational expenses.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress made in securing Afghanistan's democratic future in the last six months. [276629]

Bill Rammell: With UK and international support, significant developments have been made in strengthening Afghan democracy since 2001. Our funding has been used to help strengthen institutions, finance the electoral process and build Afghan civil society and political participation. Notable achievements since 2001 include nationwide democratic presidential and parliamentary elections and the ratification of a new constitution.

We have already given £16.5 million to support the Afghan Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to prepare for the presidential and provincial council elections that will be held on 20 August 2009. Parliamentary and district council elections are due in 2010. International funding and support for the 2009-10 elections is being co-ordinated by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) as part of its Enhancing Legal and Electoral Capacity for Tomorrow (ELECT) project.

UK financial support is complemented by ongoing political engagement by British Ministers and embassy officials—encouraging change; raising concerns with the Afghan Government; lobbying internationally for support; and working through the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's International Security Assistance Force to support thorough Afghan-led security for the elections.

Voter registration, which started in October 2008, has now been completed by the IEC across Afghanistan. We are pleased the process went according to plan, with over 4 million new names being added to the existing voter registry. The fact that the insurgents failed to disrupt the process is a credit to all involved, particularly the Afghan National Security Forces.

Candidate registration for Afghanistan's 2009 presidential elections closed on 8 May 2009. 44 candidates registered in total, including two women. The next stage involves the Afghan Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) investigating any challenges to these candidates. The ECC will receive complaints between 16 and 21 May 2009, and after making their investigations, they will notify the IEC if any candidates have been disqualified.

For a more detailed overview of the evolution of the current Afghan political system, and examples of what the UK is doing to improve governance across the country, please see the following link to the recent Foreign and Commonwealth Office memorandum of evidence; submitted to the Foreign Affairs Committee as part of their global security inquiry into Afghanistan:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmfaff/memo/afghanistan/ucgs0402.htm

For more information on the IEC, including legal and technical details regarding the electoral process and lists of candidates, see:

http://www.iec.org.af/engDefault.asp

More information on the UNDP's ELECT project can be found at:

http://www.undp.org.af/WhoWeAre/UNDPinAfghanistan/Projects/dcse/pri_elect.htm

Arms Control: Nuclear Weapons

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the proposals of the US delegation to the preparatory committee for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in New York on 5 May 2009 in respect of a fissile material cut-off treaty. [276307]

Bill Rammell: We welcome the proposals made by the US delegation at this year's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee in support of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

The UK believes that an FMCT is essential for multilateral nuclear disarmament, and is one of the six steps that my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary identified as necessary in order to achieve the conditions needed to help achieve a world free of nuclear weapons at the launch of the 'Lifting the nuclear shadow' policy information paper on 4 February 2009.

It is our hope that the Conference on Disarmament will soon adopt a Programme of Work which will include the start of negotiations on an FMCT.

Caribbean: Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of prison provision in UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean. [276806]

Gillian Merron: Each of the five Caribbean overseas territories (OTs) and Bermuda has at least one prison, with Bermuda and Cayman also having completely separate prisons for females. The majority of the prisons were built in the last 10-15 years (in most cases with Government assistance) to replace outdated facilities not fit for purpose. A senior manager, seconded from HM Prison Service, is based in the region to advise and support local officials on prison management and wider criminal justice issues. In addition, each prison has an independent and voluntary monitoring body working within it in order to monitor and report on conditions, and to raise any issues of concern.

The OT prison services are moving towards a focus on rehabilitation, with the recruitment of specialists to support that approach. With smaller prison and local populations, the early indicators are that these efforts are having more success than larger prison systems elsewhere are able to achieve.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of the flag vehicles his Department has procured for official use *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* at diplomatic posts overseas were not made in Britain. [277349]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently operates no flag vehicles for official use in the UK and 172 overseas. It is not possible to ascertain how many of these vehicles were not made in Britain without incurring disproportionate cost as records detailing the country of manufacture are not held centrally.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275255]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), FCO Services (Trading Fund), and Wilton Park (Executive agency) made non-consolidated performance-related variable payments totalling £7,214,259 to 4,722 staff in 2008 to reward performance in 2007-08.

Within this total we paid £2,435,100 in non-consolidated performance-related payments to 288 staff in the senior management structure/senior civil service. Almost 30 per cent. of FCO staff in the senior management structure received no performance related variable pay in 2008.

All three organisations use the same payroll and pay moderation process. To separate the payments made by each Department/agency would incur disproportionate cost.

Economic Situation

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* operating arrangements and *(b)* objectives have been established for the early warning system his Department has initiated to monitor economies at risk of suffering political and social unrest; and which countries are under observation. [275326]

Gillian Merron: Ongoing assessment of political, social and economic conditions in countries around the world is central to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) pursuit of its departmental strategic objectives. The diplomatic reporting from the FCO's global network is a key part of this assessment. In response to the global economic crisis, the FCO has enhanced its reporting and analysis of the impact of economic turbulence upon worldwide political and social conditions, and on emerging risks. The FCO looks at all countries as part of this process.

Egypt: Prisoners

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the arrest by the Egyptian authorities of 49 people allegedly linked to a cell assigned by Hezbollah for the purpose of carrying out terrorist attacks in Egypt. [277496]

Bill Rammell: In April 2009, the Egyptian authorities announced that they had arrested a group of people with alleged links to a Hezbollah cell. The cell is reported to have been made up of 49 people of various nationalities, including Egyptians, Lebanese and Palestinians. The Egyptian authorities have confirmed that none of the suspects are British nationals.

The Egyptian authorities allege that the cell was established by Hezbollah with the aim of attacking targets inside Egypt, including Israeli tourists and ships passing through the Suez Canal.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he has and *(b)* his officials have had with the Egyptian government on the recent arrest of 49 people allegedly linked to a cell assigned by Hezbollah. [277497]

Bill Rammell: I discussed the Hezbollah case with the Egyptian ambassador in London on 22 April 2009. I also raised it during my visit to Cairo on 20-21 May 2009 with the Egyptian Minister for Parliamentary and Legal Affairs, Dr. Moufied Shehab.

Officials at our embassy in Cairo remain in regular contact with the Egyptian government.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the detention by Egyptian authorities of a Hezbollah operative allegedly attempting to provide logistical and military assistance to Gaza-based militants. [277506]

Bill Rammell: In April 2009, the Egyptian authorities announced that they had arrested a group of people with alleged links to a Hezbollah cell. The cell is reported to have been made up of 49 people of various nationalities, including Egyptians, Lebanese and Palestinians. The Egyptian authorities have confirmed that none of the suspects are British nationals.

The Egyptian authorities allege that the cell was established by Hezbollah with the aim of attacking targets inside Egypt, including Israeli tourists and ships passing through the Suez Canal. According to media reports, the suspects themselves and the Hezbollah leadership claim that the objective of the Egypt cell was to provide support and assistance to militants in Gaza.

EU-Israel Association Committee

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the European Commissioner for External Relations on the agenda for the EU-Israel Association Council meeting on 15 June 2009. [277694]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with European Commissioner for External Relations on 9 March 2009. A number of issues were discussed, including the Middle East Peace Process. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have also been in regular contact with European Commissioner's Cabinet regarding the agenda for the EU-Israel Association Council meeting on 15 June 2009.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what specific areas of co-operation the European Commission has proposed for discussion at the EU-Israel Association Council meeting on 15 June 2009. [277695]

Bill Rammell: The European Commission has not yet proposed an agenda for the EU-Israel Association Council meeting on 15 June 2009.

Gurkhas: Immigration

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations from the government of Nepal on proposals to grant residency rights to Gurkha soldiers who have served in the armed forces. [277431]

Bill Rammell: Our embassy in Kathmandu has maintained a constructive dialogue with the Nepalese Government about developments on the settlement policy for Gurkhas. The Nepalese Government have not expressed any concerns to the Government.

Hezbollah

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review the decision to explore contacts with Hezbollah's political wing after the Lebanese election on 7 June 2009. [277217]

Bill Rammell: We will continue to keep the decision to explore contacts with Hezbollah's politicians under review and will take developments into account.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with their counterparts in (i) the United States, (ii) France, (iii) Israel, (iv) Lebanon, (v) Canada, (vi) Syria and (vii) Iran on Government policy on Hezbollah; and what views were expressed by each of those governments. [277372]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials and myself meet regularly with counterparts in other governments and discuss a broad agenda, including, where appropriate, Government policy on Hezbollah. It is not for the FCO to state the views of other governments.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Iran on the seven Baha'i leaders who have been under arrest in Iran for the last 12 months. [276939]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* We have repeatedly expressed our concerns to the Iranian Government regarding the treatment of the seven Baha'i leaders. The EU, with strong UK support, has called for their immediate release on several occasions.

I issued a statement on 16 February 2009, backed by an EU statement on 17 February 2009, expressing our concern at the charges against them and calling for the Iranian Government to allow independent observation of the judicial proceedings. I then issued a further statement on 14 May 2009 to mark the one year anniversary of their arrest. In this statement I reiterated concerns for their well-being and again called for the Iranian Government to ensure that these individuals are protected and given a fair trial in accordance with international standards.

The UK will continue to urge Iran to put an end to persecution of religious minorities and to respect the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in article 18 of the international covenant on civil and political rights, to which Iran is a state party.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will withdraw his Department's objection to the publication of Sir Jeremy Greenstock's proposed book on Iraq. [277710]

Bill Rammell: Sir Jeremy Greenstock submitted a draft copy of his book to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 2005. The FCO was unable to clear the draft and despite attempts by both sides to solve outstanding concerns, it was put on hold. Sir Jeremy indicated in 2005 that he would seek clearance at a later date. We have not received any further contact.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to seek the lifting of the blockade of Gaza by the Israeli authorities. [276728]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 21 May 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this with the Israeli Foreign Minister on 13 May 2009 and Defence Minister Barak on 6 May 2009. He also stressed the importance of greater access in his statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009.

We continue to press the Israelis authorities at official level.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the discovery by Egyptian security forces on 14 May 2009 of weapons and explosive devices along the Sinai Peninsula border with Israel; and if he will make a statement. [276864]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports of munitions found along the Egyptian-Israeli border. We continue to work closely with international partners to tackle the issue of arms smuggling into Gaza; the UK hosted an international meeting on the issue in March 2009 and will attend a follow-up meeting in June 2009. We condemn any attempt to smuggle arms into Gaza.

Somalia: Piracy

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of allegations that intelligence services in the UK are supplying intelligence to Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean; and if he will make a statement. [277003]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* We are aware of recent press reports, upon which we assume the question is based and which originate in a speculative Spanish radio report, citing allegations that Somali pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden have been receiving information from shipping consultants in London. The allegations contained in the original report and subsequent press reporting are unsubstantiated and unfounded.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the alleged use of heavy artillery by the Government of Sri Lanka on civilians in Northern Sri Lanka between 8 and 11 May 2009. [275966]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of disturbing reports of the use of heavy weapons by both sides during the conflict and are seeking to verify the accuracy of these reports. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said at the UN on 11 May 2009, we are appalled at the recent reports of civilian casualties. Following the Foreign Secretary's discussions with US Secretary Clinton on 12 May 2009, they released a joint statement calling for the Government of Sri Lanka to abide by its commitment of 27 April 2009 to end major combat operations and the use of heavy weapons. We welcome the end to hostilities and urge the Sri Lankan Government to now focus on the immediate welfare of internally displaced persons and for the long term peace and stability of Sri Lanka.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his EU and US counterparts on whether the recent actions of the Sri Lankan Government constitute genocide. [276114]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discusses the situation in Sri Lanka with his US and EU counterparts. As he has made clear, most recently in his joint statement with US Secretary Clinton of 12 May 2009, we are profoundly concerned at the humanitarian crisis and are alarmed by the continued reports of high civilian causalities. We condemn the killing of civilians in the strongest possible terms. As I repeated in the House during the topical debate on Sri Lanka on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1034, we would support an early investigation into all incidents that may have resulted in civilian casualties, to determine whether war crimes have been committed.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Statement of 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1048-50, on Sri Lanka, what steps he is taking to ensure that the UN Security Council addresses the conflict in Sri Lanka. [276833]

Bill Rammell: On 19 May 2009, the Sri Lankan President announced that military forces had retaken all the territory once held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and that they had captured or killed the senior leadership of that organisation. Our primary concern remains the immediate humanitarian crisis affecting the civilians displaced by the fighting and the long-term political and economic peace and stability of Sri Lanka. We continue to work with the UN, EU, the Sri Lankan Government and key international partners to try to alleviate the humanitarian situation and to press for progress on a political solution that is based on equality, consent and rule of law.

Within the UN, we have been working to ensure the Security Council remained fully briefed on the situation in Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Sri Lanka with UN Security Council representatives on 11 May 2009, and the UK raised Sri Lanka at the UN Security Council on 13 May 2009. We fully supported the visits by senior UN staff to Sri Lanka, including John Holmes (UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) and Vijay Nambiar, (UN Secretary-General's Chief of Staff) and, in the face of some opposition from others, we supported their subsequent briefings to the Security Council. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed Sri Lanka with the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 19 May 2009. These actions at the UN have been important, not least in keeping the spotlight of international concern on Sri Lanka.

We have urged the Government of Sri Lanka to use the opportunity of the visits by Mr. Nambiar and the UN Secretary-General himself, to recognise that the UN has a central role to play, both in the delivery of humanitarian aid and in encouraging the process of political reconciliation that must be an integral part of rebuilding Sri Lanka's civil society.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on holding independent war crimes investigations of the actions of the Sri Lankan military. [277250]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his written ministerial statement on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 73 WS, we endorse the European Council's call for alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law to be investigated through an independent inquiry, and for those accountable to be brought to justice. We believe this could play an important role in the post-conflict reconciliation process.

Sri Lanka: United Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the proposal for a UN special envoy to Sri Lanka. [277430]

Bill Rammell: We are not aware of any current proposals for a UN Special Envoy to Sri Lanka. We welcome the high level engagement by the UN, including the recent visits to Sri Lanka by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, his Chief of Staff Vijay Nambiar and UN Under Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes. We fully support the efforts of the UN in regard to the situation in Sri Lanka and welcome the UN Secretary-General's continued involvement.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1199-200W, on Sudan: overseas aid, how many international aid organisations have been permitted to return to Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [277227]

David Miliband: The Government of Sudan have not reversed their decision and none of the international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) expelled from Darfur and other parts of northern Sudan have been permitted to return to Darfur. The UK, along with many other countries, has made clear its strong view that these NGOs were doing essential work and need to be allowed back.

Detailed discussions continue between the UN and Government of Sudan on steps to restore humanitarian capacity and to secure a safe operating environment for NGOs. The UK is in close touch with the UN, the Government of Sudan and other partners on these issues.

Syria: Human Rights

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress he has made in respect of the case of Maryam Kallis, recently arrested in Syria; and if he will make a statement. [276781]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this case with the Syrian Foreign Minister, Walid Muallem, during a telephone conversation on 8 May 2009. Consular officials in Damascus have visited Mrs. Kallis on two occasions, on 8 and 23 April 2009 and we have requested further consular access. We have asked the Syrian authorities to allow Mrs. Kallis access to legal representation and that her family are allowed to visit her. We have made clear to the Syrian authorities that we expect them either to charge or to release Mrs. Kallis as soon as possible. We continue to pursue this case repeatedly at an official level with the Syrian authorities.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Constitutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the status is of the constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands; and if he will make a statement. [276787]

Gillian Merron: The constitution of the Turks and Caicos Islands is contained in the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2006, which is currently in force.

I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 39WS. The Commission of Inquiry's final report was due by 31 May 2009. Unless the Commissioner's final report significantly changes our current assessment of the situation, the order suspending parts of the constitution will be brought into force after the final report is received and has been considered.

UK Trade and Investment: Recruitment

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what difference in cost to his Department there is between filling an overseas post relating to UK Trade and Investment with an officer of the Diplomatic Service and an official from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and whether this difference is taken into account when posts are allocated. [275456]

Gillian Merron: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) jobs overseas are subject to internal open competition in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UKTI and Business, Enterprise, and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Successful candidates are chosen only on merit, in the interests of getting the best person for the job. BERR staff taking up UKTI positions overseas transfer to diplomatic service terms and conditions for the duration of their posting.

It is not possible to provide a difference in cost between filling a UKTI overseas post with an officer of the diplomatic service and an official from BERR as costs are dependent on the post, the destination country and the grade and personal circumstances of the officer.

United Arab Emirates: Torture

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of the United Arab Emirates on the examination of alleged video evidence of acts of torture by uniformed police and others in that country. [272798]

Bill Rammell: The Government are absolutely opposed to the use of torture under any circumstances. We note the official statement of the Government of the United Arab Emirates on 30 April 2009 unequivocally condemning the actions depicted in the video. We welcome the decision of the Human Rights Office of the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department to conduct a comprehensive review of this case and to make its findings public at the earliest opportunity.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the Administering Power for the Non Self-Governing territory of Western Sahara is as referred to in General Assembly Resolution 63/110 on the Declaration on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. [277119]

Bill Rammell: Morocco administers most of the territory of Western Sahara de facto. In respect of Western Sahara, no member state is listed as the Administering Power.

The UK voted against UN General Assembly Resolution 63/110 this year, and has voted against similar resolutions in previous years, as we find some elements of the resolution unacceptable.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 267724, on conflict prevention resources, tabled on 25 March 2009. [276722]

Gillian Merron: This question was answered on 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1146W. The delay in replying was due to an administrative error.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Assets

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department last reviewed its assets and land and property holdings with a view to identifying and disposing of surpluses. [269866]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP does not own any land or property. The Department has outsourced its estate through a PFI Contract known as PRIME, under which it pays a charge for serviced accommodation for each building covering the cost of the space occupied, the maintenance of the building, plant, fixtures and fittings, and of the facilities management services provided.

The Department similarly owns no IT assets. Its IS/IT and telephony requirements were outsourced to EDS and BT in 2005.

The Department's remaining assets are regularly reviewed but have little, if any, disposal value.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274313]

Jonathan Shaw: The number of staff dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years is not available in the format requested.

The Department and its agencies do not have a category of under-performance as a measure of employee performance. However, there is a category of unsatisfactory performance.

The information is held on the Department's personnel computer system which was introduced from November 2006. Information is not available from this system prior to April 2007.

The number of staff dismissed for unsatisfactory performance and the number dismissed in total, for each year since April 2007 is outlined in the following table:

1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

	Dismissals for unsatisfactory performance	*Dismissals for reasons other than unsatisfactory performance*	*Total dismissals*
DWP and its agencies	17	1,167	1,184

1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009

DWP and its agencies	*Dismissals for unsatisfactory performance*	*Dismissals for reasons other than unsatisfactory performance*	*Total dismissals*
DWP total	18	1,190	1,208

The total number of staff dismissed in each year was in the region of 1 per cent. of the total staff employed in the Department. Of the total number of staff dismissed for reasons other than unsatisfactory performance around two-thirds were dismissed for unsatisfactory attendance.

Employment Schemes: Lone Parents

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Government's guarantee of a job interview for every lone parent who is looking for work and ready for work is expected to take effect. [275892]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* Jobcentre Plus introduced the guarantee of a job interview for eligible lone parents in April 2008.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when work trials for lone parents were introduced; and how many lone parents have undertaken such trials to date. [275893]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* Work trials were introduced in December 1989. Lone parents do not have to satisfy the eligibility criteria and so have access to this provision from 'Day One'. However, the nature of the available statistical data means I am unable to provide an overall figure of how many lone parents have undertaken a work trial.

Funeral Payments

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to pay funeral grants to terminally ill people before they die to enable them to plan their own funerals; and if he will make a statement. [270107]

Kitty Ussher: The Department does not provide financial support to people to fund their own funerals. Funeral payments, an element of the social fund, provide help, at the point assistance is required, to people receiving specified income-related benefits or tax credits who are responsible for paying for the funeral of a close friend or relative and who have good reason for taking responsibility for the funeral arrangements. This is to ensure that available resources go to those who are least well off.

Although the scheme is kept under review there are no plans to make fundamental changes to the funeral payments scheme to provide advance financial assistance to people for arranging their own funeral.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many jobcentres were *(a)* opened, *(b)* relocated and *(c)* closed in each of the last 12 months; under what circumstances jobcentres are (i) opened, (ii) relocated and (iii) closed; and if he will make a statement; [268439]

(2) what the *(a)* address is and *(b)* date of opening was of each jobcentre in England and Wales. [268440]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many jobcentres were opened, relocated and closed in each of the last 12 months; under what circumstances jobcentres are opened, relocated and closed; and, what the address and date of opening was of each jobcentre in England and Wales. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors regularly review their service delivery plans to ensure optimum provision of service for all customers, for every Jobcentre Plus District. Our approach to closure of a customer-facing Jobcentre takes into account any impact on customer service and the relocation of the work and staff of the closing office. When considering site closures we are committed to full consultation with our customers, partner organisations, Trade Unions, staff, and local Members of Parliament.

In light of the emerging economic downturn pressures we decided to suspend the planned closure of 25 Jobcentres. This decision was announced in November 2008. There has been a further closure of three small sites in London during March 2009. These had been announced last summer prior to the decision to suspend future closures. There will be no new Jobcentre closures while the current economic conditions persist.

Jobcentre Plus inherited around 1,500 offices from the merger of the Benefits Agency and the Employment Service in 2002. We have modernised our Jobcentre network to improve customer service, rationalising our estate to provide excellent high street coverage and a single, integrated customer facing office, at the same time reducing cost to the tax payer. We remain the largest office network in Government with 741 modern Jobcentres. This high street presence is supported by 31 modern contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres.

In addition to our network of modernised Jobcentres we aim to make our services accessible to customers by providing a range of support through outreach, often delivering advisory and other support at our partners' premises. That is particularly important in locations where maintaining a Jobcentre could not be justified. Typically such services can be delivered in partnership with Children's Centres or on Local Authority premises or in conjunction with one of our Welfare to Work Providers.

The great majority of our services (in common with most large, modern organisations) are now also delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have around half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network and I believe Jobcentre Plus is well-placed to respond to the full range of economic conditions.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what roles we expect the planned additional 6,000 Jobcentre Plus staff to fill. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Whilst Jobcentre Plus will have an additional 6,000 staff in the next operational year we do not yet have the detailed plans on their deployment as these are still being worked on. However, it is anticipated that more than half of these will be Personal Advisers and others will be in customer intervention and support roles within our customer service operations.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claims for jobseeker's allowance took *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* between five and 10 days, *(c)* between 10 and 20 days, *(d)* between 20 and 30 days, *(e)* between 30 and 50 days, *(f)* between 50 and 100 days and *(g)* over 100 days to process in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years for which information is available. [266126]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of claims for Jobseeker's Allowance took (a) fewer than five days, (b) between five and 10 days, (c) between 10 and 20 days, (d) between 20 and 30 days, (e) between 30 and 50 days, (f) between 50 and 100 days and (g) over 100 days to process in each of the last (i) 12 months and (ii) five years for which information is available. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In terms of volumes and percentages our benefit processing system records the number of Jobseekers Allowance claims processed within the following time bands: 1-5 days; 6-10 days; 11-16 days; 17-21 days and over 22 days. The volumes are displayed as a cumulative figure for each of the time bands except over 22 days. So for example, those claims between 1-5 days are included in the column for 6-10 days and so on. The percentage figures are not cumulative and are subject to rounding. This data has been available since 2006. Therefore I have provided you with the yearly total for 2006/07 and 2007/08. I have also provided you with the in-month data for the last 12 months. The available information is in the attached annex.

Annex

	Volume					*Percentage*				
	Column A	*Column B (=column A+cases 6-10 days)*	*Column C (=column B+cases 14-16 days)*	*Column D (=column C+cases 17-21 days)*	*Column E (=22 days and over only)*	*Column F*	*Column G*	*Column H*	*Column I*	*Column J*
	JSA processed in 5 days	*JSA processed in 10 days*	*JSA processed in 16 days*	*JSA processed in 21 days*	*JSA processed in 22+ days*	*1-5 days*	*6-10 days*	*11-16 days*	*17-24 days*	*22 days+*
2008										
March	33,193	114,739	144,365	152,208	7,143	20.8	51.2	18.6	4.9	4.5
April	34,345	131,400	176,442	188,313	9,189	17.4	49.1	22.9	6.0	4.7
May	41,848	123,546	159,529	169,803	9,094	23.4	45.7	20.1	5.7	5.1
June	40,662	131,447	175,834	188,593	9,302	20.5	45.9	22.4	6.4	4.7
July	44,078	146,259	205,764	221,415	11,049	19.0	44.0	25.6	6.7	4.8
August	46,294	140,168	200,750	218,392	12,825	20.0	40.6	26.2	7.6	5.5
September	50,919	163,883	221,444	237,978	12,198	20.4	45.2	23.0	6.6	4.9
October	57,258	170,242	231,717	246,851	13,301	21.8	43.1	23.5	6.5	5.1
November	60,081	184,277	243,502	260,838	15,686	21.7	44.9	21.4	6.3	5.7
December	56,096	156,505	221,502	240,793	15,965	21.8	39.1	25.3	7.5	6.2
2009										
January	94,216	230,960	321,028	350,918	24,495	25.1	36.4	24.0	8.0	6.5
February	91,021	205,603	279,106	313,664	27,649	26.7	33.6	21.5	10.1	8.0
2006-07	229,759	922,387	1,552,047	1,840,313	359,228	10.4	31.5	28.6	13.1	16.3
2007-08	360,048	1,392,944	1,872,132	2,020,687	148,828	16.6	47.6	22.1	6.8	6.9

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people aged over 25 years have been referred from jobseeker's allowance to a training allowance *(a)* during the first month of their claim, *(b)* between one and three months of their claim, *(c)* between three and six months into their claim, *(d)* between six and 12 months of their claim and *(e)* between 12 and 18 months of their claim, excluding those claiming a training allowance as part of a New Deal programme, in the last 12 months. [266134]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not collated centrally.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the rules governing the payment of housing benefit to landlords to allow greater flexibility. [262550]

Kitty Ussher: Local housing allowance was rolled out nationally in April 2008 for customers in the deregulated private rented sector who make a new claim for housing benefit, and for existing customers who move address. It is a way of calculating the rent element of housing benefit based on the area in which a customer lives and their household size. Local housing allowance is paid to the tenant rather than the landlord in most circumstances.

We believe that local housing allowance is a much fairer, simpler and more transparent way of calculating housing benefit. One of the key features of local housing allowance is that where possible the benefit will be paid to the customer, so that they can take more personal responsibility for their housing, helping to prepare for when they move into work.

We accept that it is not possible in every case to make the payment to the tenant and, once the local authority has determined a maximum rent in accordance with the relevant regulations, payments are therefore made to the landlord in the following circumstances:

> when the tenant is unlikely to pay (for example, where the local authority knows from past experience that the tenant is likely to abscond with the rent payment); or
>
> when the tenant is likely to have difficulty in managing their rent payments; for example, due to an alcohol/gambling/drug dependency or because of a serious medical condition such as Alzheimer's disease; or
>
> when the tenant is in arrears of eight weeks or more.

Local authorities may make payments to the landlord where they consider that the claimant is likely to have difficulty in paying their rent and it is in the interest of the claimant to do so. We therefore encourage landlords not to wait for the eight-week period to be reached but to contact the local authority as soon as a payment is missed so that they can begin gathering the evidence required to make a decision on direct payment.

We are satisfied that these safeguards will ensure that vulnerable customers do not fall into unmanageable difficulties and that their rental payments will be met.

Local housing allowance was introduced in nine pathfinder authorities in 2003-04 and was subject to extensive and independent evaluation. A further nine authorities implemented the scheme in 2005 to test operational readiness.

Despite landlords' initial fears, there is overwhelming evidence that customers have responded extremely well to the responsibility of managing their rent payments. Evidence from the evaluation has shown that customers regard paying the rent as a matter of prime importance and that most would prioritise this above all other payments. 84 per cent. of tenants are successfully managing their own housing benefit. Of the remaining 16 per cent. only a third are having their housing benefit paid to the landlord because they have fallen into arrears of eight weeks or more. Two-thirds are having their benefit paid to the landlords because the local authority, working together with landlords, has identified that they might not be able manage their rent payments. The local housing allowance evaluation reports are available on the DWP website at:

> http://www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/lha/evaluation/index.asp

We are closely monitoring how the local housing allowance scheme is working in practice and will undertake a review during the first two years of operation following national rollout.

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of each type of benefit who will apply for bridging payments under the provisions of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment (No.2)) Regulations 2008 and the Social Security (Transitional Payments) Regulations 2008 in each of the next two years. [272664]

Mr. McNulty: We have not made an estimate of the number of customers who may apply for a loan. We have made provision for all customers whose benefit payments will change from being made weekly to fortnightly in arrears to be offered a loan equivalent to 100 per cent. of their weekly benefit.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average weekly income of claimants of each type of benefit who will move to fortnightly benefit payments in arrears under the provisions of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) (Amendment (No.2)) Regulations 2008 and the Social Security (Transitional Payments) Regulations 2008. [272666]

Mr. McNulty: We have not made an estimate of average weekly income, because it can vary depending on an individual's circumstances—for example, customers may receive other sources of income such as child tax credits, earnings from part-time employment or occupational pensions, and so on.

Vocational Training

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what facilities Jobcentre Plus offers for access to and registration for skills accounts in each pilot area. [266119]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what facilities Jobcentre Plus offers for access to and registration for skills accounts in each pilot area. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus offers access to skills accounts in Integrated Employment and Skills pilot areas, by referring customers to Learning and Skills Council contracted Nextstep services, or by signposting them to the Careers Advice telephone service. These services offer advice and information on skills accounts and facilitate registration where appropriate.

Workers' Memorial Day

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has *(a)* spent on and *(b)* allocated to its consultation on official recognition of Workers' Memorial Day. [277052]

Jonathan Shaw: The costs of the consultation exercise will be met from existing resource. The costs cannot be separately identified because the staff working on the consultation are simultaneously working on other projects as well.

HEALTH

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the rate of incidence of Alzheimer's disease in *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* the London Borough of Croydon in each of the last 10 years. [276874]

Phil Hope: The Department does not have data on the incidence of Alzheimer's disease. However the national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of dementia. Alzheimer's disease accounts for 50 to 75 per cent. of cases of dementia so the prevalence of patients with dementia gives an indication of the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease. This prevalence figure is available only for the two latest releases of QOF, covering 2006-07 and 2007-08 (financial years). However, these numbers are likely to be an underestimate of the true position. The Dementia UK report, published in 2007 by the Alzheimer's Society estimated that two-thirds of the people with dementia never receive a formal diagnosis.

Figures are supplied for the health areas, which best fit the areas requested.

These QOF figures are given in the following table:

Prevalence of dementia

		Percentage
	2007-08	*2006-07*
England	0.4	0.4
London Strategic Health Authority	0.3	0.3
Croydon Primary Care Trust	0.3	0.3

Cancer: Health Services

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has provided to external organisations to raise awareness of and provide patient support for those diagnosed with *(a)* breast cancer, *(b)* leukaemia, *(c)* cervical cancer and *(d)* prostate cancer in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [277299]

Ann Keen: In the last 12 months, approximately £1.98 million has been awarded to organisations to raise awareness of and provide patient support for people diagnosed with cancer. This is broken down as follows:

> As part of the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative's promoting earlier presentation work stream, the Department of Health and the Football Foundation are joint funding the Ahead of the Game programme. Ahead of the Game is a one-year pilot programme, which will use the appeal of football to raise awareness of lung, bowel and prostate cancers in men aged 55 and over. The Department has awarded £86,000 for this work between 2008 and 2010.
>
> £76,500 was awarded to MKC Trust over a three-year period from 2009-2012, to raise awareness of breast cancer among south Asian communities, and provide support to south Asian women with breast cancer and their families.
>
> In addition, over £1.8 million has been awarded over the last 12 months to organisations supporting cancer patients in general, for the period 2009-12.

Funding awarded more than 12 months ago also continues to be used to raise awareness of cancer and provide support for patients. For example, we continue to support the Healthy Communities Collaborative which is raising awareness of bowel, breast and lung cancers in spearhead communities.

Dementia

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to develop a national public awareness campaign on dementia since the publication of the National Dementia Strategy in February 2009. [277331]

Phil Hope: The Department has already begun to raise public awareness of dementia by funding the Alzheimer's Society Worried about Your Memory campaign in 2008. Leaflets, booklets and posters on dementia have been made available in all general practitioner surgeries in England. The campaign aims to prompt and help people to consider if their forgetfulness, or that of a friend or relative, is due to just poor memory or the beginning of a medical problem and to encourage them to seek medical advice.

In addition, over the course of the five-year implementation of the strategy there will be both national and local awareness campaigns designed to improve public and professional awareness, and change existing attitudes towards dementia.

Dementia: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the outcomes of the review of the use of antipsychotic medicines in dementia; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish those outcomes. [277197]

Phil Hope: The outcomes of the review of the use of antipsychotic medicines in dementia will be completed shortly. It was not possible to complete the review within the original timescale because of the amount of resource needed for the National Dementia Strategy itself.

Departmental Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breaches of security have been reported at the *(a)* Medicines Healthcare Products and Regulatory Agency and *(b)* NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276955]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no breaches of security reported at Medicines Healthcare products and Regulatory Agency in the last five years.

There have been no breaches of security reported at NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency in the last five years.

As part of the Cabinet Office Information Governance Assurance Programme, staff are required to declare breaches of data security to the Senior Information Risk Owner, who in turn is required to declare these to the Information Commissioner's office. Both agencies also make a statement on Information Governance in their annual reports.

Diabetes: North East

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of the treatment of diabetes in the North East Strategic Health Authority in each of the last three years. [276966]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the expenditure on diabetes for the North East Strategic Health Authority for the last three years in which data are available.

	Expenditure on core population (£000)
2004-05	37,719
2005-06	47,870
2006-07	42,713

Note:
Figures do not include prevention or general medical services expenditure.
Source:
Department of Health Programme Budgeting

Domestic Accidents: Children

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were admitted to hospital as a result of an accident in the home in each month of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [276654]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277171]

Dawn Primarolo: Euro Ministers are responsible for preparations for joining the single currency in their respective Departments and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings in this capacity. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover. Ministers do have other responsibilities around European Union business.

Epilepsy

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake a review of NHS services for people with epilepsy. [276807]

Ann Keen: On 19 May 2009, we met with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Epilepsy. At this meeting, we announced that the Department will be working with stakeholders specifically to look at the commissioning of local services to meet the needs of people living with epilepsy.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken in response to the report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Epilepsy of June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [277384]

Ann Keen: Detailed information on the work the Department has already taken in response to the 2007 report by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Epilepsy were given when we met with the APPG for Epilepsy on 19 May 2009. At this meeting we also announced that the Department will be specifically looking into the commissioning arrangements for local services to meet the health and social care needs of those living with this condition.

General Practitioners: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the licence charges are for each information system accredited under the GP Systems of Choice programme; what expenditure his Department has incurred to date on *(a)* upgrading GP systems to Systems of Choice level and *(b)* supplying infrastructure to primary care trusts under the GP Systems of Choice programme to date; and what estimate he has made of primary care trusts' expenditure of training staff to use GP Systems of Choice to date. [277082]

Mr. Bradshaw: The GP Systems of Choice (GPSoC) initiative is aimed at improving the information technology (IT) systems and services that support general practices in England by delivering the functionality required under the national programme for IT in line with a common set of standards and performance measures to which all suppliers must adhere. GPSoC enables practices to continue to use the IT systems they already use, but under a standard contractual arrangement that improves transparency and value for money for the national health service.

The annual licence and service charges payable to suppliers for each information technology (IT) system accredited under GPSoC are given in the following table.

£

Supplier	EMIS	INPS	iSOFT	Microtest
Licence/service level				
Software licence	3,427.72	4,681.00	4,997.31	5,592.81
Level 1 compliance	204.64	205.00	203.06	204.64
Level 2 compliance	204.64	205.00	203.06	204.64
Level 3 compliance	204.64	205.00	Not level 3 compliant	Not level 3 compliant
Summary care record (SCR) compliance	Not SCR compliant	Not SCR compliant	203.06	Not SCR compliant
System Support	665.08	665.00	659.95	665.08

Notes:
1. Level 1 compliance: functionality to support core general practitioner (GP) system requirements, choose and book, Spine, and personal demographics service
2. Level 2 Compliance: Level 1, plus electronic prescription service
3. Level 3 Compliance: Level 2, plus GP to GP record transfer
Minor variations in compliance and system support charges, originally common for all suppliers, are due to indexation changes as a result of timing of when the contract became effective for each supplier.

All systems must meet GPSoC Level 2 before they are funded under the GPSoC contract and it is the suppliers who must meet the costs of upgrading their systems to achieve this level.

Funding of an average of £9,500 per GP practice was provided to PCTs in 2007 to upgrade practice IT infrastructure to ensure that practice infrastructure met the minimum standards required to support the efficient use of systems provided under GPSoC, and of other systems and services provided under the national programme for IT.

Since the initiative enables practices to retain the systems with which they are familiar and have been trained to use, training funded under GPSoC is restricted to that required to take advantage of new functionality. Expenditure to date, which is funded by the Department, totals some £323,000.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for *(a)* the cessation of the temporary programme, GP Systems of Choice, as part of the National Programme for IT and *(b)* the commencement of the deployment of Local Service Provider solutions for General Practice. [277199]

Mr. Bradshaw: GP Systems of Choice began in August 2007, to run initially for two years, with the expectation that contracts awarded under the initiative would be extended for a further two years if the initiative proved successful. The assumption at the outset was that, by the end of the four-year period, national programme for information technology local service providers (LSPs) would have delivered their integrated general practice solutions. Depending on the rate of take up of the integrated solutions, the Department will determine in due course whether the contracts should be re-tendered to ensure continuity of service.

LSP general practitioner (GP) solutions have already been deployed to over 900 practices, with more practices migrating to TPP SystmOne, provided by CSC, than any other available GP system.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of accrediting systems through the GP Systems of Choice programme. [277200]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department routinely undertakes testing to demonstrate that new functionality offered by national programme for information technology suppliers meets the necessary requirements and standards. The cost of doing so would therefore arise even in the absence of GP Systems of Choice (GPSoC).

Under GPSoC, the cost varies depending on whether the system is an upgrade to an existing system or a new system. The estimated average cost of the former is around £4,500, and of the latter, around £23,300.

Headaches and Migraine

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what training in the care of people with headaches and migraine disorders is available to *(a)* GPs and *(b)* other medical staff. [277211]

Ann Keen: The Department shares a commitment with statutory and professional bodies that all health professionals are trained, so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal. The Department, along with local national health service bodies that commission professional training, continue to work with the regulators and higher education institutes to ensure that their standards and curricula reflect the changing needs of patient and service delivery.

Training needs for all NHS staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on drugs for the relief of headache disorders and migraine. [277212]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The institute's research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS. That research currently includes a randomised placebo controlled trial of propranolol and pizotifen in preventing migraine in children. The Department is also providing national health service support for a clinical study of clopidogrel as prophylactic treatment for migraine through the NIHR Primary Care Research Network.

The NIHR funded University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre is undertaking research on headache and pain. A five-year budget of £3.7 million has been allocated to this work.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC, an independent body, receives its grant in aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC is currently funding two research projects relating to headache and migraine as follows:

Dr. K. E. Volynski at University College London: Calcium channels in evoked neurotransmitter release at individual synapses and neurological disease which relates to familial hemiplegic migraine.

Professor D. Kullman at the Institute of Neurology, London: Presynaptic ion channel dysfunction in the forebrain which is looking at the mechanisms which can cause seizures in conditions such as migraine and epilepsy.

A range of pharmacological interventions are available to prevent the occurrence of headaches, and to relieve the pain of attacks. It is the responsibility of health professionals to consider what treatment is the most appropriate for their patients, in consultation with the patient and informed by their medical history.

Health Professions: Working Hours

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the effects of the European Working Time Directive on hospital staff. [276715]

Ann Keen: The national health service has made excellent progress in implementing this important legislation, which ensures that patients receive safe, high quality care from staff that have not been forced to work excessive hours. Only the junior doctors in training remain to become compliant by 1 August and two-thirds of them are already working a 48-hours week averaged over 26 weeks.

The United Kingdom Government notified the European Commission in January 2009 of its assessment of progress in achieving compliance with the European Working Time Directive by doctors in training. A copy of the UK notification of Derogation for Doctors in Training has already been placed in the Library. The Department is working closely with the medical royal colleges, the British Medical Association and strategic health authorities to ensure trusts are prepared for full implementation.

Health Services: Disabled

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much primary care trusts spent on *(a)* disability services and *(b)* children's disability services in the last five years. [276989]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not collected centrally.

However, 'Services for children and young people with disabilities and/or special needs: Report of findings from child health mapping in England 2005 to 2007', published in February 2009, brings together available information from some primary care trusts including financial information.

Heart Diseases

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements are in place to consult the voluntary sector as part of his Department's external review of implementation of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease and the future of cardiology services; [277036]

(2) when he plans to complete his Department's assessment of the future profile of cardiology services; and what account that assessment is taking of links between cardiac conditions, stroke, kidney disease and diabetes. [277037]

Ann Keen: The Department is commissioning an external review of the implementation and delivery of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease. In addition to this, we will undertake an analysis of the trends in the burden of heart disease and look at how patient expectation and need, technology and working practices are likely to affect future demand and patterns of service provision. We will feed our findings into the discussions of the National Quality Board, which has been set up to oversee the priorities for the service in the future. As part of normal practice, the Department will consult with the voluntary sector. A completion date has not yet been set.

In addition to this, phased implementation of this NHS Health Check Programme began in April 2009. This takes a cross-vascular approach to preventing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has commissioned recent research to establish which population groups have disproportionately higher levels of cardiac and vascular disease. [277046]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's Policy Research Programme (PRP) funds the South London Stroke Register which monitors trends in the incidence of stroke in different ethnic groups[1]. The British Women's Health and Heart Study, also funded by the PRP, is a large, nationally representative cohort study of older women that provides information about the incidence of cardio-vascular disease.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies though which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC currently supports a broad portfolio of cardiovascular and stroke research which includes epidemiological and population based programmes. Studies included in the portfolio include:

Professor C Fall, University of Southampton—Maternal nutrition, foetal and childhood growth, and programming of cardiovascular disease and diabetes in South Asians;

Professor D A Lawlor, University of Bristol—The epidemiology of coronary heart disease in women; and

Dr. S Ramsay, University College London—Health inequalities in British men: the impact of socio-economic circumstances at different stages of the life course.

In addition, the MRC, jointly with the British Heart Foundation, had recently agreed to fund a £2.9 million research programme led by Professor J Danesh at University College London looking at the interplay of genetic, biochemical and lifestyle factors on coronary heart disease incidence in populations across Europe.

[1] Recent data from the South London Stroke Register were published last year in the Journal of the American Heart Association ("Ethnic Group Disparities in 10-Year Trends in Stroke Incidence and Vascular Risk Factors"). The article is available online at:

www.stroke.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/full/39/8/2204

Immediate Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the letter of 14 May 2009 from his Department's Director, Workforce Capacity, Analysis and HR, which hospital services provide 24-hour immediate care; and what definition of immediate care his Department uses. [277045]

Ann Keen: The terminology referred to means all hospital emergency and acute services operating a 24-hour service. It could also refer to urgent non-elective surgery specialty work, for example, a heart transplant. Services vary from region to region and trust to trust.

The definition of '24-hour immediate care' was agreed and was the decision of the National European Working Time Directive Reference Group as being the most appropriate term to encapsulate the services above. Membership of the group includes the Royal Colleges, strategic health authorities, deaneries, British Medical Association, NHS employers. This definition was used within the notification of derogation to the European Commission submitted in January.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to set a deadline for the commissioning of NHS services to achieve compliance with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [277382]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no plans to do so. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) clinical guidelines cover a whole pathway of care and may make a significant number of recommendations. The Government expect national health service organisations to work towards implementation of NICE'S clinical guidelines over time, in line with available resources and local priorities.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase levels of public confidence in National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines; and if he will make a statement. [277383]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent organisation and its clinical guidelines are based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence. They are developed in consultation with stakeholders, are widely respected internationally and have been commended by the World Health Organisation. The Department has no plans to undertake further work on public perceptions of NICE clinical guidelines.

NHS Redress Scheme

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent progress has been made on the implementation of the NHS Redress Act 2006; [277214]

(2) whether consultation has begun on details of the NHS Redress Scheme; [277215]

(3) when he plans to bring forward proposals for secondary legislation to introduce the NHS Redress Scheme. [277216]

Ann Keen: The NHS Redress Scheme can only be enacted through secondary legislation, and will require extensive consultation before draft proposals are brought before Parliament. However, the principles behind the scheme are those underpinning the reform of the NHS complaints arrangements that came into effect on 1 April 2009.

The NHS Redress Scheme would apply only to clinical negligence cases of lower monetary value. We consider that focussing on complaints reform will enable those principles to be applied across a wider range of cases.

Once complaints reforms have bedded down, we will begin to consider the implementation of the NHS Redress Scheme.

Once developed, the NHS Redress Scheme will set out the way lower value clinical negligence cases are handled in the national health service to provide appropriate redress, including investigations, explanations, apologies and financial redress where appropriate, without the need to go to court, thereby improving the experience of patients using the NHS.

NHS: Conditions of Employment

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions there have been between his Department and representatives of trades unions and NHS staff on the Transforming Community Services programme. [277660]

Phil Hope: There were two meetings nationally with the trade union representatives of national health service staff about the Transforming Community Services: Enabling new patterns of provision guidance, which was published in January 2009 a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. These meetings were held on 18 November and 8 December 2008, and comments and contributions from those present influenced significantly the content of the final guidance. The union representatives were a sub-group of members of the Social Partnership Forum, and they discussed the potential implications for NHS staff. NHS clinical staff and trade union representatives are also members of the Board for the Transforming Community Services programme.

The six transformational practice guides (written principally for clinical team leaders), which are due to be published in June 2009, have also been co-produced with NHS staff.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place for primary care trusts to consult *(a)* trades union representatives and *(b)* NHS staff on the Transforming Community Services programme. [277661]

Phil Hope: The Partnership Agreement 'An agreement between DH, NHS Employers and NHS Trade Unions' was published in March 2007. It sets out the principles and benefits of working in partnership on work force implications of policy. A copy has been placed in the Library.

It is expected that strategic health authorities (SHAs) will replicate the broad principles and structures, laid out in the Partnership Agreement, at local level.

In addition, The Handbook to The NHS Constitution for England published, on 21 January 2009, includes a commitment to engage staff in decision that affect them and the services they provide. A copy of this has already been placed in the Library.

Further, 'Transforming Community Services Enabling New Patterns of Provision', published in January 2009 (a copy of which has been placed in the Library), requires primary care trust boards to consult their staff and their representatives, as well as other key stakeholders, from an early stage on organisational options for the future of community services and to take their views, comments and suggestions into serious consideration. The guidance also highlights the importance of the active engagement by SHAs of regional Social Partnership Forum in reviewing progress and discussing any emerging concerns or significant implementation issues.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the likely effect on levels of staff retention of the transfer of NHS community services staff to third sector providers as part of the Transforming Community Services programme. [277664]

Phil Hope: There has been no assessment made centrally of the likely effect on levels of staff retention of the transfer of NHS community services staff to third sector providers as part of the Transforming Community Services programme. We have been clear, however, in guidance to primary care trusts (PCTs) that we expect PCT boards to consult at any early stage on such proposals and/or requests from staff under the 'Right to Request' scheme, and to ensure that any implications for the future community work force, such as recruitment and retention, are considered.

NHS: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Table 71a of the Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services

2008 on the salaries and wages of non-NHS staff, what jobs are classified as other. [277108]

Ann Keen: The following non-NHS staff are classed as other table 71a of the Public Expenditure on Health and Personal Social Services 2008—any qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (allied health professionals and other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff); any support to clinical staff (support to doctors and nursing staff, and support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff); any national health service infrastructure support (central functions, hotel, property and estates, and managers and senior managers); and any other non-medical staff.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent state of readiness return relating to the European Working Time Directive from each NHS trust. [277041]

Ann Keen: We will not be laying documentation in the Library at this time because the information is being validated and changing rapidly as we move towards the deadline of 1 August. Information about the state of readiness relating to the European Working Time Directive continues to be analysed and will be published in due course.

Palliative Care

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish a report on progress on implementation of the 2005 national service framework for long-term conditions. [277385]

Ann Keen: There are no plans to publish a report on implementation of the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions. The NSF was published in March 2005, and will be implemented over 10 years with flexibility for local health and social care communities to take account of local priorities and needs.

The Department has provided service planners, commissioners and providers with guidance, expert advice and support to help them to deliver the NSF's quality requirements. However, in line with devolving responsibility to local organisations, we are moving to new phase with much greater emphasis on local health and social care communities and the third sector taking responsibility for driving forward service change and improvement. This also recognises that the NSF is not a stand-alone priority but that it needs to be closely aligned and integrated into mainstream NHS and Social Services activity.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the needs of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults receiving long-term ventilation (i) in hospital, (ii) in their own homes, (iii) in residential care and (iv) elsewhere. [277480]

Phil Hope: It is for local clinicians and multi-disciplinary teams to assess the needs of people receiving long-term ventilation. The Department of Health, with Barnardo's, published "From Hospital to Home: guidance on discharge management and community support for children using long-term ventilation" in 2005. A copy has been placed in the Library. The forthcoming national strategy for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease will include material on access to invasive and non-invasive ventilation.

Patients: Suicide

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients who committed suicide unassisted in each NHS hospital in each of the last 10 years. [277194]

Phil Hope: The information is not available centrally in the format requested. However, data held on in-patient suicides in England between 1997 and 2005 are in the following table:

In-patient suicides, England 1997 to 2005

	Number
1997	214
1998	190
1999	188
2000	196
2001	179
2002	165
2003	183
2004	158
2005	151

Prescriptions: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects Release 2 of the Electronic Prescription Service to be implemented; and if he will make a statement; [277078]

(2) how many *(a)* GP and *(b)* pharmacy information systems he plans to accredit for use with the Electronic Prescription Service in the next 12 months. [277079]

Phil Hope: All pharmacy and general practitioner (GP) system suppliers have to follow a rigorous assurance process prior to being given authority from Connecting for Health to nationally deploy their Release 2 services. This is made up of a number of key stages including clinical safety testing and initial implementation in a limited number of GP and pharmacy sites.

Currently, one GP system and one pharmacy system are completing the final stages of clinical safety testing prior to deploying to the first GP and pharmacy sites. The exact start date of initial implementation is dependant on how quickly these systems progress through the final stages of testing. Based on current supplier plans, it is hoped that initial implementation will begin in the summer. The outcomes of the initial implementation stage will be used to finalise plans for wider rollout of Release 2 across the country.

System suppliers are responsible for providing information on when they expect their systems to be available. Based on recent supplier plans, seven pharmacy and six GP systems are expected to complete the assurance process in the next 12 months.

Social Services: Train to Gain Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken under the Social Care Workforce Strategy to promote the Train to Gain initiative to social care providers in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [277083]

Phil Hope: We are very keen that Train to Gain is utilised and promoted to the social care sector as it has benefited the adult social care sector significantly. There has been a marked increase in those completing training and academic awards over the last three years with nearly 25,000 social care employees achieving a new qualification through Train to Gain.

We are doing more to support employers' access to Train to Gain funding by providing a brokerage service via Skills for Care to mediate between Train to Gain, employers and individuals in the sector. This brokerage role is key to enabling increased access to funding.

Weather

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many copies of the Heatwave Plan for England 2009 have been produced; and what the cost of production, printing and distribution of the document was. [277707]

Dawn Primarolo: The Heatwave Plan itself is a web-based document only. It is distributed via the Department's website, so no hard copies are produced.

Three additional documents complement the Heatwave Plan itself, to form a package of Heatwave Plan documents. These documents are two factsheets and a public information leaflet:

Factsheet: Supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave—advice for health and social care professionals (which like the plan itself is web-based);

Factsheet: Supporting vulnerable people before and during a heatwave—advice for care home managers and staff (which like the plan itself is web-based); and

Leaflet: A guide to looking after yourself and others during hot weather (distributed in hard-copy via GP surgeries, pharmacies and other local outlets).

To date, 900,000 of the leaflet have been printed for 2009.

To date, the cost of producing and distributing the 2009 package of Heatwave Plan documents is £79,504.79, made up of the cost of revising the three web-based documents and enabling them to be downloaded from the Department's website, and the printing and posting costs of the leaflet.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed services of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* age, *(c)* regiment and *(d)* service stationed in Afghanistan were (i) killed, (ii) seriously injured and (iii) otherwise injured in each year since 2001. [276999]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since Operations began in Afghanistan in 2001, 159 UK Service personnel have died while on deployment, or as a result of injuries sustained in Afghanistan. The figures presented for fatalities are correct as at 19 May 2009. Of the 159 Service personnel who have died, information for four soldiers has not been publicly released and therefore their detailed information has been excluded from the following tables.

Since Operations began in Afghanistan in 2001, one female member of UK Service personnel has died while on deployment, or as a result of injuries in Afghanistan.

The following table provides a breakdown of fatalities by age-group and year:

Age group	*All*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
All	159	0	3	0	1	1	39	42	51	22
<20	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	3	0
20-24	56	0	1	0	1	1	10	17	16	10
25-29	50	0	0	0	0	0	16	10	16	8
30-34	20	0	2	0	0	0	1	7	6	4
35-39	9	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	3	0
40+	11	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	3	0
Not released	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0

[1] As at 19 May

The following table provides a breakdown of fatalities by Service, Corps/Unit and year:

Service	*Corps/unit*	*All*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
All	All	159	0	3	0	1	1	39	42	51	22
Naval Service[2]	All	32	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	16	5
	3 Command Brigade	29	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	16	5
	1 Assault Group	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Army	All	108	0	3	0	1	1	22	35	29	17

Service	*Corps/unit*	*All*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
	Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
	Corps of Royal Engineers	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Corps of Royal Military Police	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Foot Guards	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	2
	Household Cavalry	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
	Intelligence Corps	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Mercian Regiment	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
	Parachute Regiment	15	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	10	0
	Rifles	12	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	8
	Royal Anglian Regiment	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
	Royal Armoured Corps	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Royal Army Veterinary Corps	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Royal Corps of Signals	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0
	Royal Gurkha Regiment	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
	Royal Irish Regiment	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
	Royal Logistic Corps	6	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
	Royal Regiment of Artillery	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	1
	Royal Regiment of Scotland	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
	Royal Welsh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Yorkshire Regiment	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
RAF	All	15	0	0	0	0	0	12	1	2	0
	120 Squadron	12	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
	3 Squadron, RAF Regiment	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	504 RAF Auxiliary Squadron	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	51 Squadron	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Info not released		4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0

[1] As at 19 May

[2] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

In the table above, the breakdown for Army Corps is presented for the current Army structure, following the merger of many regiments over the last few years. Detail of an individual's Corp is subject to change as further information becomes available.

Since Operations began in Afghanistan in 2001, 198 UK Service personnel have been very seriously or seriously injured (VSI/SI) while on deployment in Afghanistan. The figures presented are sourced from the NOTICAS reporting system and include casualties reported up to 16 May 2009. Casualties within the cause category of 'natural causes' are excluded from the figures.

Information on the breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured casualties by sex for the time period requested cannot be released without disclosing individual identities.

The following table provides a breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured casualties by age-group and year:

Age-group	*Total*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Total	198	0	1	1	6	2	31	63	65	29
<20 years	20	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	11	0
20-24	83	0	1	0	2	1	10	27	26	16
25-29	50	0	0	1	2	1	9	17	11	9
30-34	23	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	9	1
35-39	18	0	0	0	1	0	5	3	6	3
40+	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0

[1] As at 16 May

The figures provided above exclude natural causes.

Information on the breakdown of casualties by Regiment, or other Service equivalent, for the time period requested cannot be released without disclosing individual identities.

The following table 4 provides a breakdown of very seriously and seriously injured casualties by Service and year:

Service	*Total*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Total	198	0	1	1	6	2	31	63	65	29
Naval Service	48	0	1	0	0	0	7	14	15	11
Army	145	0	0	1	6	2	24	47	47	18
RAF	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0

[1] As at 16 May

The Naval Service figures provided above includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines. All figures provided exclude natural causes.

Since Operations began in Afghanistan in 2001, 602 UK Service personnel have been recorded on the NOTICAS casualty reporting system with a medical listing of Incapacitating Illness/Injury (III), Unlisted Condition (UL) or Minor Injury (MI) while on deployment in Afghanistan. The figures presented include casualties reported up to 16 May 2009. Casualties within the cause category of 'natural causes' are excluded from the figures.

Since Operations began in Afghanistan in 2001, nine female members of UK Service personnel have been recorded on the NOTICAS casualty reporting system with a medical listing of Incapacitating Illness/Injury (III), Unlisted Condition (UL) or Minor Injury (MI) while on deployment in Afghanistan.

A breakdown of casualties listed as III, UL and MI by age-group and year is provided in the following table:

Age-group	*Total*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Total	602	0	3	0	1	6	67	213	207	105
<20 years	76	0	0	0	0	0	6	26	25	19
20-24	243	0	2	0	1	3	25	100	77	35
25-29	158	0	1	0	0	2	20	49	59	27
30-34	67	0	0	0	0	0	7	22	27	11
35-39	35	0	0	0	0	0	6	8	14	7
40+	19	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	5	6
Not available	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0

[1] As at 16 May

The figures provided above exclude natural causes.

Information on the breakdown of casualties by Regiment, or other Service equivalent, for the time period requested cannot be released without disclosing individual identities.

A breakdown of casualties listed as III, UL and MI by Service and year is provided in the following table:

Service	*Total*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[1]
Total	602	0	3	0	1	6	67	213	207	105
Naval service[2]	158	0	2	0	0	1	14	63	45	33
Army	430	0	1	0	1	5	50	147	157	69
RAF	14	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	5	3

[1] As at 16 May

[2] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

The figures provided above exclude natural causes.

TREASURY

Balance of Payments: EU Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on the UK of changes to the facility to provide medium-term financial assistance for EU member states' balances of payments. [277181]

Ian Pearson: The increase to €50 billion in May 2009 will further ensure that the EU is able to act to support the needs of all EU member states, and protect the functioning of the EU common market. There are no EC budgetary implications or impact on the UK of this increase to the ceiling of the facility. Other technical changes will have an impact on those countries receiving medium-term financial assistance under this facility; the EC budget and all member states would take on a larger contingent liability as a result of any increased lending.

Bank Notes: Forgery

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions his Department has taken action in relation to counterfeit currency resembling the euro under counterfeit regulations. [277183]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury does not have responsibility for taking action in relation to counterfeit currency resembling the euro. Instances of euro counterfeiting should be reported to the police.

HM Treasury was responsible however, for negotiations on European Council Regulation 45/2009 of 18 December 2008. This extended measures for the protection of the euro currency from counterfeiting to member states who have not adopted the currency.

HM Treasury engaged with the Commission closely to ensure that this regulation would be both proportionate and effective. In particular, while appropriate financial and credit institutions will be required to screen for counterfeit euros, the regulations provide flexibility to them regarding the most efficient methods for doing so.

The Council regulations provide for member states to make appropriate domestic provisions by the end of 2011, and HM Treasury will be taking this forward with relevant stakeholders in due course.

Banks: Iceland

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the recommendations of the Treasury Select Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2008-09, Banking crisis: the impact of the failure of the Icelandic banks. [276930]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury is considering carefully the Treasury Select Committee's recommendations and expects to respond to them in due course.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to lift the freezing order on the Landsbanki assets; on what criteria that steps will be taken; and if he will make a statement. [276931]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October HM Government made the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008. The order was made because the Icelandic Government, its authorities and Landsbanki appeared to be on the brink of action which would be to the detriment of the UK economy, including detrimental treatment of UK depositors.

It is a measure that could be lifted once the Treasury is satisfied that action to the detriment of the UK economy has been addressed and will not proceed.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the advice he received on use of powers under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 to freeze assets in Icelandic banks; and if he will make a statement. [276932]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers receive advice and input on a wide range of issues, from a variety of individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors, as part of the process of policy development and analysis. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of advice given to the Treasury.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his assessment is of whether the actions of the Government in respect of the crisis in Icelandic banks made the Government an active participant in the financial markets; and if he will make a statement. [276933]

Ian Pearson: Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (KSF) the UK subsidiary of the Icelandic bank Kaupthing was regulated by the FSA, who was also in regular contact with the Icelandic regulator, FME.

As KSF's position deteriorated the tripartite authorities worked intensively to find solutions to the firm's problems. On 8 October the FSA decided that KSF no longer met the FSA's threshold conditions and the firm went into administration.

Upon learning of the FSA's decision, the UK Government moved swiftly to transfer some of the deposits of KSF to ING to safeguard depositors and financial stability within the UK.

The steps taken by the FSA and the Government had no bearing on the status of the parent company, Kaupthing Bank hf, which is incorporated under Icelandic law and subject to supervision by the FME.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times powers under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 have been used to freeze assets in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [276934]

Ian Pearson: The power under section 4 of the Anti Terrorism Crime and Security Act 2001 has been used on one occasion. This was in 2008 for the Landsbanki Freezing Order.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last discussed the Government's policy on Icelandic banks and the freezing of their assets with his Icelandic counterpart. [276935]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received on capital gains tax arrangements for spouses who leave the marital home and purchase alternative properties. [277433]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Debts

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to Lord Alton of Liverpool of 11 May 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA158, on debt, what sovereign debt is owed to the UK by *(a)* Sudan, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* Serbia, *(d)* Zimbabwe, *(e)* Cuba, *(f)* Egypt, *(g)* Republic of Congo, *(h)* Democratic Republic of Congo and *(i)* Somalia. [277683]

Ian Pearson: Debts (including accrued interest) of the countries listed to HM Government are given in the following table. Sudan, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia are within the heavily indebted poor countries initiative. The Government will write off their debts as they progress through the initiative and will not seek payment before then.

Country	*Debt to UK (£ million)*
Sudan	624
Iraq	283
Serbia	215
Zimbabwe	192
Cuba	141
Egypt	126
Republic of Congo	118
Democratic Republic of Congo	88
Somalia	51

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277166]

Ian Pearson: Euro Ministers are responsible for euro preparations in their Department and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions to date the ERM II provisions have been triggered on the approach of a currency to the limits permitted; and what the cost of this intervention was in each case. [277127]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not hold this information. The relevant data are owned by the national central banks of the EU member states participating in ERM II. The UK does not participate in ERM II.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the cost to the UK of participating in the ERM II mechanism in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the reasons are for UK participation in the mechanism. [277182]

Ian Pearson: The UK does not participate in the ERM II.

EU Budget

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the size of the UK's next part-annual sum for payment to the European Union budget is. [277092]

Ian Pearson: The UK makes its contributions to the EC budget twice monthly. The Government's latest forecast of UK net contributions to the EC budget over the period 2007-08 to 2010-11 were published in table C9 (page 238) of the 2009 Budget (HC 407).

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual administrative cost to his Department of making the payment of the UK's gross contribution to the EU budget. [277213]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury does not make estimates of the administration costs involved in making this payment.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate of the UK's *(a)* (i) gross and (ii) net EU budget contributions and *(b)* direct contributions to other EU institutions and funds in 2009-10 (A) was estimated to be in 2007 and (B) is estimated now at the pound's current exchange rate. [277219]

Ian Pearson: The 2008 European Community Finances White Paper, using estimates from 2007-08, estimated the gross contribution to the EC budget for 2009-10 to be £15.55 billion. A current estimate for gross contribution to the EC budget for 2009-10 will be published in the forthcoming 2009 European Community Finances White Paper. The 2007 pre-Budget report estimated the net contribution to the EC budget for 2009-10 to be £5.7 billion, and net payments to EC institutions to be £4.8 billion. The 2009 Budget estimated the net contribution to the EC budget for 2009-10 to be £4.1 billion, and net payments to EC institutions to be £3.3 billion.

Payments are not made directly to EU funds. These are covered in payments made to the EC budget. It should be noted that the pound's exchange rate is only one of a range of factors affecting the level of UK contributions to the EC budget.

EU Institutions: Fraud

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of EU institutions on reduction of levels of fraud in those institutions. [277091]

Ian Pearson: The Government continue to engage with European institutions and other member states with a view to bringing down the level of fraud in the EC Budget. Despite there being no evidence of widespread fraud in EU institutions, the Government believe that no fraud should be tolerated and continue to press for higher standards to combat fraud and improve financial management.

Income Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the full-year cost to the Exchequer for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 of reducing the (i) starting and (ii) basic rate of tax on savings income to zero. [251189]

Mr. Timms: The full year cost for each of the three years is shown in the table. The estimates are based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward in line with Budget 2009 assumptions. The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response.

£ million

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Zero starting rate for savings income	20	55	80
Zero basic rate for savings income[1]	510	1,570	2,440

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[1] Additional costs assuming the starting rate for savings income is zero.

Income Tax: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who have not been fully compensated for losses they incurred as a result of the abolition of the 10 pence tax rate; [277668]

(2) what plans he has to provide further recompense to people who have not been fully compensated for losses they incurred as a result of the removal of the 10 pence tax rate. [277669]

Mr. Timms: An assessment of the impact of the Budget 2007 personal tax changes, and the subsequent reforms made to income tax, were included in the 2008 pre-Budget report at paragraph 5.10.

The Government have set out, in the 2008 pre-Budget report and Budget 2009, the changes that it will make to the personal tax system through to 2011-12.

Lenders' Panel

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost of establishing his Department's Lenders' Panel was; and how much he expects his Department to spend on the Panel in each of the next three years; [264981]

(2) on how many occasions his Department's Lenders' Panel has met; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting. [264983]

Ian Pearson: At the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government announced the creation of a new Lending Panel, which meets regularly to monitor lending to businesses and households. As part of this new monitoring approach, the Bank of England is publishing a monthly report—Trends in Lending—the second of which was published on 21 May 2009. This is available at:

www.bankofengland.co.uk

The Lending Panel brings together lenders, trade bodies, consumer groups, and the Government, regulators and the Bank of England.

Members of the Lending Panel attend in a voluntary capacity. There are no specific costs associated with the Lending Panel.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding his constituent, Mr. Christie. [270492]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Economic Secretary plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of *(a)* 17 December 2008, acknowledged on 6 January 2009 and *(b)* 26 February 2009 on his constituent, Mr. Charles Helden. [276050]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for New Forest West on the decision to increase maximum income from an unsecured pension by 20 per cent. and its effect on a constituent Mr. S. T. Gray of Lymington. [277518]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 17 March 2009 (PO Ref: 3/09245/2009) concerning his constituent, Mrs. Nancy Ng, of Chelmsford. [277672]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 13 March 2009 (PO Ref: 5/04496/2009) concerning his constituent, Mr. Peter Lee, of Great Waltham, Essex. [277673]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Pensions: Private Sector

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on private pensions. [276958]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Personal Savings

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to assist savers in each year since 1997; what representations he has received on this issue since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [276866]

Ian Pearson: The Government receive a range of representations from groups and individuals on a wide range of topics, including savers. Since 1997, the Government's savings strategy has focused on developing better incentives for saving, ensuring people have the capability to make the right savings decisions for them, and that they have access to appropriate savings opportunities. The Government introduced tax-free ISAs in 1999, and announced increases to the ISA limits at Budgets 2007 and 2009. Over 18 million people now have an ISA. The Child Trust Fund was introduced in 2005, and the Saving Gateway will be introduced in 2010 to encourage saving amongst working-age people on lower incomes. The Government have also legislated for reforms to the private pensions system that will encourage and enable more people to save for their retirement.

Personal Savings: Interest Rates

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received since January 2009 on proposals to protect savers from the effect of low interest rates; what reply he gave; and if he will make a statement. [277002]

Ian Pearson: The Government receive a range of representations from groups and individuals on a wide range of topics, including savers. The Government announced at Budget 2009 that from 6 October 2009 the ISA limits will rise for people aged 50 and over to £10,200, of which up to £5,100 can be saved in cash. From 6 April 2010 the ISA limits will rise to these new levels for all savers. To offer additional support for older savers, Budget 2009 also announced an increase in the capital disregard for pension credit and pensioner related housing and council tax benefit to £10,000 from November 2009, and the launch of a tax-back campaign in autumn 2009, contacting low and middle income pensioners who may have overpaid tax on their savings income.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to assist individuals in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England and Wales facing repossession of their property in each month since January 2008; what representations he has received on this issue since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [277000]

Ian Pearson: The Government introduced Financial Services Authority regulation of mortgages in 2004. The FSA's regime provides important protections for borrowers. It requires lenders to treat their customers fairly, and to treat repossession as a last resort.

FSA regulation is supported by the new mortgage pre-action protocol introduced in November 2008. This sets out clear guidance on what actions judges expect lenders to take before bringing a claim in the courts to help ensure that lenders have tried to discuss and agree other alternatives with the borrower.

Through the new Lending Panel, announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government are working closely with lenders, consumer groups and regulators to monitor lending to businesses and households. The lenders on the Lending Panel have committed not to repossess where the owner-occupier is less than three months in arrears.

The Government launched Homeowners Mortgage Support on 21 April. This new scheme, together with changes announced at Budget 2009 to Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI) and the Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme, will help homeowners who experience a temporary income shock, lose employment, or are otherwise vulnerable, to remain in their homes. The Government have also taken action to help ensure that every household struggling with debts has access to free and impartial debt advice.

The Chancellor receives representations from a wide range of stakeholders on issues relating to repossessions.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in HM Revenue and Customs contact centres in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and how many calls were received by such centres in each of those years. [277509]

Mr. Timms: The number of *(a)* full-time equivalent staff employed as at 31 March and *(b)* the number of calls received by HM Revenue and Customs contact centres in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09 is shown in the table.

HMRC contact centres

	Full-time equivalent staff[1]	*Calls received (million)*[2]
2006-07	10,035	60
2007-08	9,763	65.5
2008-09	10,038	66.2

[1] As at 31 March.
[2] Calls received, where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and the call was placed into a queue to speak to an adviser.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many compliance staff were employed by HM Revenue and Customs at each grade in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [277511]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The number of staff engaged in compliance activities, by grade, is listed in the following table. They exclude detection staff who were transferred to the UK Border Agency in 2008.

As at 1 April	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Senior civil servant	115	114	106	102	106
Grade 6	603	581	523	531	521
Grade 7	1,314	1,282	1,263	1,238	1,274
Fast stream	77	566	528	475	399
Senior officer	2,025	1,812	1,729	1,667	1,614
High officer	7,281	6,465	6,313	5,928	5,478
Officer	10,554	10,131	9,515	8,907	8,030
Assistant officer	4,249	4,256	4,231	4,165	4,227
Admin assistant	2,340	2,105	2,040	1,863	1,506
Total	28,558	27,313	26,248	24,876	23,176

Tax Allowances: Personal Pensions

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 421-22W, on tax allowances: personal pensions, how many individuals claimed income tax relief on personal pensions at *(a)* the basic rate and *(b)* the higher rate in 2006-07. [277345]

Mr. Timms: The number of individuals claiming income tax relief at the basic rate in respect of personal pension contributions was estimated to be 5.2 million in 2006-07. The number of individuals claiming income tax relief in respect of those taxed at the higher rate was estimated to be 1.3 million in 2006-07.

These figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 and relate to contributions by employees and the self-employed only. They are based on 2006-07 survey data.

Tax Yields: Business

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the amount of business rates raised from businesses based in residential properties in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [276652]

Mr. Timms: The Government do not hold this information, which could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the amount of capital gains tax raised from businesses based in residential properties in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [276653]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Taxation

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the full-year cost to the Exchequer for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 of simultaneously reducing the starting and basic rate of tax on savings income to zero and increasing age-related personal allowances by £2,000. [254795]

Mr. Timms: The full year cost for each of the three years is shown in the table. The estimates are based on the 2006-07 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward in line with Budget 2009 assumptions. The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response

£ million

	2009-10	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Zero starting and basic rate of income tax on savings income and increase age related allowances by £2,000	1,710	2,850	3,800

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assistance his Department provides to individuals in financial difficulty; whether provision exists for individuals to delay payment of *(a)* income tax and *(b)* national insurance; what plans he has to provide further assistance to such individuals in the next 12 months; what representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [276665]

Mr. Timms: With regard to tax collection, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) expects all customers to make payments when they are due. However, the Department recognises that in certain circumstances this may not be possible and publishes advice and guidance for individuals encountering payment difficulties. This guidance can be accessed at

> http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/payinghmrc/problems/cantpay-individuals.htm.

In addition, individuals who run their own business can now access the new Business Payment Support Service (BPSS), which allows viable businesses in temporary financial difficulty time to pay their tax bills to a timetable they can afford. The service was extended at Budget 2009 to allow businesses expecting to make losses to offset these against tax bills due on profits from the previous year, which they are unable to pay. As of 24 May over 135,000 agreements had been reached with business, worth £2.4 billion of tax deferred.

The Government receive various representations relating to the collection of income tax and national insurance contributions, and keep the case for further assistance to individuals in financial difficulty under review.

Taxation: Construction

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the merits of extending gift aid to not-for-profit agencies that reuse, reclaim and up-cycle redundant and surplus construction materials; and if he will make a statement. [277490]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury keeps all tax reliefs under review, but has no plans to extend Gift Aid beyond money donations to charities and community amateur sports clubs. Gift Aid is only available for gifts of money and extending it to donations of construction materials would increase complexity and add uncertainty over valuation issues.

Taxation: Sports

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of uprating the trading and rental income thresholds for corporation tax exemption for clubs registered as community amateur sports clubs in line with inflation; [277686]

(2) what the trading and rental income thresholds for corporation tax exemption are for community amateur sports clubs; and what they would be if they had been uprated in line with inflation in each year since 2004. [277688]

Mr. Timms: Income exemption thresholds for corporation tax for community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) are, along with all other income thresholds for tax, kept under review.

CASCs are exempt from corporation tax on any trading income up to £30,000 and on income from property up to £20,000. Prior to April 2004, the limits were £15,000 and £10,000 respectively.

The following tables show what the thresholds would have been had they been increased in line with inflation.

Exemption for trading profits

	Threshold (£)	*RPI (Percentage)*	*Inflation linked threshold (£)*
2004-05	30,000	—	—
2005-06	30,000	2.63	30,789
2006-07	30,000	3.74	31,941
2007-08	30,000	4.12	33,256
2008-09	30,000	2.97	34,244

	Exemption for rental income		
	Threshold (£)	*RPI (Percentage)*	*Inflation linked threshold (£)*
2004-05	20,000	—	—
2005-06	20,000	2.63	20,526
2006-07	20,000	3.76	21,296
2007-08	20,000	4.12	22,171
2008-09	20,000	2.97	22,829

VAT: Hospices

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to exempt hospices from payment of value added tax in respect of building extension works. [276875]

Mr. Timms: Under agreements with our European partners, signed by successive governments, we are not able to extend our existing VAT zero rates or introduce any new ones.

VAT: Retail Trade

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on retail businesses of the proposed change in the rate of value added tax in January 2010; [277316]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with retailers on changes to value added tax rates; and what the outcomes of those discussions were. [277317]

Mr. Timms: An assessment of the impact of the temporary reduction in the VAT standard rate, including the impact of returning the rate to 17.5 per cent., was published when the reduction was announced in November 2008 and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_vat_1845.pdf

Treasury Ministers and officials have since met with representatives from the retail sector on a number of occasions to discuss the temporary reduction in the VAT standard rate. Budget 2009 confirmed that the rate will return to 17.5 per cent. from 1 January 2010, allowing businesses to plan with certainty for that date.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will continue to discuss with retail and other businesses the practical issues associated with the change. To address the particular difficulties for businesses such as pubs and clubs that will remain open beyond midnight on 31 December, HMRC will allow a few hours' grace in which they may continue charging the 15 per cent. rate for a session that goes into the early hours of 1 January.

Welfare Tax Credits: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point have been (i) overpaid and (ii) underpaid tax credits (A) once, (B) twice and (C) three or more times in each of the last five years. [277192]

Mr. Timms: The following table provides a snapshot of information on the number of families in Essex and in Castle Point constituency, with one, two and three or more underpayments or overpayments of tax credits between 2003-04 and 2006-07. This is based on families who had a 2006-07 tax credit award and lived in Essex and in Castle Point constituency as at 31 August 2006. Information for 2007-08 is not yet available at parliamentary constituency level, further information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

Thousand

Regularity with which overpayment or underpayment of tax credits occurred	*Number of awards underpaid*		*Number of awards overpaid*	
	Essex[1]	*Castle Point*	*Essex*[1]	*Castle Point*
(A) Once	34.6	2.1	32.7	2.1
(B) Twice	8.6	0.6	17.0	1.1
(C) Three or more times	1.7	0.1	7.0	0.5

[1] These figures include those of Castle Point parliamentary constituency.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1926W, on welfare tax credits: overpayments, how many individual cases of tax credit overpayments his Department has taken to court to seek recovery in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [276697]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs initiates court action only as a last resort.

The number of court actions initiated through county court (England and Wales)[1], sheriffs court (Scotland) and magistrates court (Northern Ireland) from January 2009 to March 2009 for the recovery of tax credit over-payments are provided in the following table.

	Court cases
January 2009	1,226
February 2009	636
March 2009	338

[1] For England and Wales these figures relate only to actions commenced centrally and exclude actions commenced by local HMRC debt pursuit offices where it is not possible to readily disaggregate tax credit cases from the total number of local initiated court actions.

For information for November and December 2008, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1632W.

Welfare Tax Credits: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in each constituency in the South West have been *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid tax credits (i) once, (ii) twice and (iii) three or more times since April 2003. [276714]

Mr. Timms: The following table provides a snapshot of information on the number of families in the South West region with one, two and three or more underpayments or overpayments of tax credits between 2003-04 and 2006-07. This is based on families who had a 2006-07 tax credit award and lived in the South West region as at 31 August 2006. Information for 2007-08 is not yet available at parliamentary constituency level, further information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tc-delay-07-08.htm

Thousand

Regularity with which overpayment or underpayment of tax credits occurred	*Number of awards underpaid*	*Number of awards overpaid*
Once	130.1	143.1
Twice	38.5	75.4
Three or more times	7.4	33.5

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Exchequer has received in receipts from right to buy schemes in each year since 1997. [274874]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1118W. Prior to 1 April 2004, receipts arising from the disposal of dwellings under right to buy (RTB) were retained by the local authorities, although authorities with debt set aside 75 per cent. of that receipt to repay their housing debt.

Social homebuy sales have only been made since February 2007. Receipts arising from right to acquire (RTA) sales and social homebuy sales by housing associations are retained by registered social landlords (RSLs) and are reinvested in the provision of affordable housing. Local authorities are allowed to retain all social homebuy sales receipts, provided these are used for the purposes set out in statutory instrument 2006/521.

The following table shows for each financial year since 2004-05 the total housing receipts received by the Department. Data on RTB and local authority social homebuy receipts received by the Department are not collected separately, but most of these arise from RTB sales. The table also shows the amount of those receipts received by the Department which were then passed on to the Exchequer.

£ million

	Receipts received by the Department	*Receipts passed on to the Exchequer*
2004-05	1,694	1,639
2005-06	1,083	990
2006-07	839	735
2007-08	494	398
2008-09[1]	150.2	134.3

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are estimates.

The following table shows the amount invested by central Government in housing capital projects. It also shows how much of that was expenditure through the Home and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme on new build and acquisitions on both social rent and low cost home ownership schemes.

£ million

	Total Department's capital investment in housing	*Total expenditure through the Affordable Housing Programme*
2004-05	4,690	1,689
2005-06	5,020	1,594
2006-07	5,298	1,921
2007-08	5,532	2,020
2008-09[1]	6,996	2,625

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are estimates.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether his Department has conducted research on levels of morale in the Civil Service in the last 12 months. [270137]

Mr. Watson: The civil service is strongly committed to researching levels of staff engagement and satisfaction. All Departments undertake regular staff surveys and recent results are available on the civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/staff-surveys.aspx

Copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office has issued guidance to civil servants in respect of taking minutes at formal meetings. [270157]

Mr. Watson: Yes.

Civil Servants: Codes of Practice

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the Directory of Civil Service Guidance. [271963]

Mr. Watson: The "Directory of Civil Service Guidance" is already available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Civil Servants: Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on civil servants: vacancies, which *(a)* Departments and *(b)* executive agencies do not advertise their job vacancies on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway; [271913]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on civil servants: vacancies, what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* salary range and *(c)* name of the recruiting Department or agency was of each vacancy advertised within the Civil Service via the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway in the last 12 months; [271915]

(3) what criteria are used to determine whether a Civil Service job vacancy advertised via the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway is reserved for existing civil servants; [272009]

(4) what steps he plans to take to encourage greater use of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway. [271966]

Mr. Watson: Government Departments and Executive agencies have delegated responsibility for recruitment advertising. All Departments have been asked to give an assurance that their vacancies will be advertised on the new online service. The Government are committed to making vacancies widely available to job seekers and are undertaking a programme of work to encourage greater use of the online facility.

Departments and agencies determine whether a vacancy should be advertised internally within the civil service or externally. The civil service senior leadership committee must approve the mode of recruitment for the most senior civil service job vacancies. In all cases the decision to advertise is based on a range of factors, including workforce plans, talent management strategies and cost.

A breakdown of the vacancies appearing online can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Civil Service: Recruitment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what recent discussions the Cabinet Office has had with the Recruitment and Employers Confederation on the application of Government security clearance rules to candidates applying for Civil Service positions; [270767]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to recruitment agencies on security clearance procedures for recruitment to positions in the Civil Service. [271806]

Mr. Watson: Policy officials in the Cabinet Office have regular discussions with the Recruitment and Employers Confederation (REC) on a range of issues: this includes the application of Government policy in respect of national security vetting for candidates for employment in the civil service as well as contractors and temporary staff recruited through employment agencies or recruitment companies.

A copy of the relevant Cabinet Office guidance, posted on the REC's website and also issued as an Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Procurement Policy Notice (09/08) has been placed in the Library.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of IT products in each category procured for each division of his Department were compliant with the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [269625]

Mr. Watson: In the Cabinet Office, IT products are supplied under the Public Sector Flex framework contract. This contract contains a number of measures to ensure that all purchases comply with the energy saving objectives of the Greening Government ICT Strategy which include the Government's Buy Sustainable-Quick Win standard.

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he has taken to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* 10 Downing Street under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273551]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 692-93W.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274456]

Kevin Brennan: Our records do not differentiate between mobile devices supplied to Ministers, special advisers and civil servants. The following departmentally provided equipment is recorded as follows:

> 14 mobile phones have been reported lost since 2005 and three BlackBerry devices have been reported stolen since 2005.

The following figures show an annual basis.

	Mobile phones	*BlackBerry devices*
2005	4	[1]—
2006	4	0
2007	3	0
2008	2	3
2009	1	0
Total	14	3

[1] Figures not available.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* its agency paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to (i) all staff and (ii) senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275262]

Mr. Watson: An element of the Cabinet Office's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives. Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

Details of non-consolidated payments made in 2008-09 will only be available once the Department's annual report has been published.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many work placements his Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274492]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office arranges placements to and help young people better understand the workplace, promote itself as an employer of choice, enhance the image of the civil service and increase diversity.

Records of how many work placements are offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Director of Digital Engagement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what timetable has been set for the appointment of a Director of Digital Engagement; and to whom the Director will report once appointed. [269908]

Mr. Watson: Andrew Stott has been appointed as Director of Digital Engagement and took up the post on 1 June 2009.

The Director of Digital Engagement will report to the Permanent Secretary, Government Communications.

Emergency Services: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of emergency response facilities to floods; and what steps have been taken to improve such facilities since the floods of summer 2007. [277447]

Mr. Watson: This was the subject of recommendation 44 of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods, which recommended that Category 1 and 2 responders should assess the effectiveness of their emergency response facilities and undertake any improvement works. In their response, the Government said that they would develop a check-list to help local responders to establish and assess the effectiveness of emergency facilities. This was done in December last year with publication of Parts One and Two of the "Expectation and Indicators of Good Practice Set for Category 1 and 2 Responders" which gives guidance on what is expected of responders in implementing the Civil Contingencies Act and wider capability building activity.

The particular improvement recommended by Sir Michael Pitt was the incorporation of IT to support flood visualisation tools in Gold and Silver Commands. This measure was the subject of Pitt Review recommendation 36, the Government's response to which indicated that the necessary hardware and training will be in place during 2009 to make relevant flood visualisation data held in electronic map format available to Gold and Silver Commands. Progress in meeting this recommendation will be reported as part of the Government's next six-monthly progress report in June.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether the updated national recovery guidance will include guidance on pre-planned arrangements to meet the costs of recovery from flooding; [276239]

(2) by what date he expects the national recovery guidance to have been updated as recommended in the Pitt report on the floods of summer 2007; and whether the updated guidance will include guidance on *(a)* local and *(b)* central recovery reporting. [276219]

Mr. Watson: The National Recovery Guidance was first published (online) in October 2007 and has been regularly updated since then, taking on board lessons from incidents and exercises, including recommendations from the Pitt Review.

Guidance on pre-planned arrangements to meet the costs of recovery from flooding (and all other emergencies), and guidance on local and central recovery reporting, has been consulted on as part of a wider consultation on revisions to "Emergency Response and Recovery", the non-statutory guidance that accompanies the Civil Contingencies Act. This consultation closed on 24 April.

The final revised version of "Emergency Response and Recovery" will be published later this year.

Once "Emergency Response and Recovery" is published, the National Recovery Guidance will be updated to include the agreed guidance on pre-planned arrangements to meet the costs of recovery from flooding and guidance on local and central recovery reporting.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the National Resilience Forum on flooding has held its first meeting. [276241]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1056-1057W. It should be noted that the Government agreed with Sir Michael Pitt that the National Resilience Forum should cover not just flood resilience, but include a wide range of other risks.

Government Departments: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff Central of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 402W, on Government departments: disclosure of information, what the figures are for each department responsible for the policy area in respect of which the information was disclosed, in each of the three years. [270172]

Mr. Watson: Further to the answer given on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 402W, to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott), the Cabinet Office does not hold a record by Department of unauthorised disclosures. There is no necessary connection between an unauthorised disclosure and the Department responsible for the policy in respect of the information disclosed.

Government Departments: Email

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Government departments plan to make use of digital signatures when emailing members of the public. [271972]

Mr. Watson: Government Departments use a number of different means of securing communications between themselves and members of the public. The appropriate method is adopted to suit the particular business needs of individual Government Departments. Such security and authentication regimes include measures such as traditional cryptography, Transport Layer Security and X.509 server certificates as well as digital signatures.

Mandatory requirement 38 of the Security Policy Framework states that:

> "all ICT systems must have suitable identification and authentication controls to manage the risk of unauthorised access, enable auditing and the correct management of user accounts."

This may include the use of digital signatures.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Minister for Digital Engagement has taken to promote the use of blogs within Government in the last 12 months. [274579]

Mr. Watson: 12 months ago I launched the Power of Information Task Force to look at social media use within Government. As part of that work the Government has clarified that civil servants can blog and how they should act at

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/participation-online.aspx

accompanied by guidance from COI at

http://www.coi.gov.uk/guidance.php?page=264

The task force published its report on 2 February 2009 setting out 25 detailed recommendations on how Government should act online. The Government response of 13 May 2009 can be found on

http://blogs.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/digitalengagement

Copies of the documents have been placed in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will bring forward legislative proposals for a statutory cap on the number of special advisers within the Government. [271968]

Mr. Watson: The Government's legislative proposals for the civil service, including special advisers, are set out in the Draft Constitutional Renewal Bill.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) with reference to the written ministerial statement, 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS, on special advisers, and with reference to paragraph 72 of the Cabinet Office memorandum to the House of Lords Communications select committee, 14 October 2008, which special advisers are employed primarily in the area of communications; [270184]

(2) which of the special advisers named are employed primarily in the area of communication. [271944]

Mr. Watson: Special advisers' duties and responsibilities are set out in code of conduct for special advisers. It is for appointing Ministers to decide on the allocation of responsibilities in respect of individual special advisers.

Copies of the 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers' have been placed in the Library of the House, and are available at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/special_advisers/code/code.aspx

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what requirements there are on special advisers to declare *(a)* their financial interests and *(b)* hospitality received. [271999]

Mr. Watson: The requirements for civil servants, including special advisers, in relation to the declaration of financial interests and hospitality are set out in the civil service code and civil service management code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding was allocated for the rebuilding of school buildings in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year from 2009-10 to 2011-12. [276622]

Jim Knight: The current forecasts of capital investment in schools in England, the North East, and Teesside local authorities, in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are set out in the table. These figures will be subject to change, depending on the progress of individual projects. They also take account of the recent fiscal stimulus initiative, which allowed authorities and schools to draw forward allocations from 2010-11 into 2009-10. Details of investment at constituency level are not held centrally. Allocations for 2011-12, and beyond, will be subject to the outcome of the next spending review.

Forecast capital investment (excluding private finance initiative)

£ million

	2009-10	*2010-11*
England	7,000	7,000
Of which:		
North East	400	306
Of which:		
Darlington	17	11
Hartlepool	10	39
Middlesbrough	54	53
Redcar and Cleveland	13	8
Stockton on Tees	14	13

The figures above exclude the private finance initiative. At the national level, £1.32 billion of PFI credits are available for allocation in each year as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. For North East local authorities with BSF projects, PFI credits totalling £278 million have been agreed. In addition, of the local authorities listed above, Redcar and Cleveland is likely to have a PFI element as part of its BSF project but this is still under discussion.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department collects on the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method ratings of schools completed under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [252669]

Jim Knight: The Department collects details of the total numbers of schools that have registered for a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) assessment, along with the numbers of certificates that have been issued for each BREEAM rating. Schools within Building Schools for the Future are not separately identified within this data. At November 2008, 1,085 schools had registered for a BREEAM assessment and 28 had received a certified rating. Of the schools which received a rating, 17 have achieved a BREEAM rating of 'very good' and four have achieved a BREEAM rating of 'excellent'.

Child Care: Qualifications

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the childcare workforce had a *(a)* degree level, *(b)* level 3 and *(c)* level 2 qualification in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [276657]

Beverley Hughes: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff working with children and young people. The proportion of the early years and child care work force with degree level, level 3 and level 2 qualifications is as detailed in the following tables.

Staff qualifications held by all paid staff - childcare providers[1]

Percentage

	Full day care				*Full day care in children's centres*	
	2007	*2006*	*2005*	*2003*	*2007*	*2006*
Level 2	16	14	15	19	10	11
Level 3	61	64	54	52	61	62
Level 6	3	3	3	n/a	7	9

Percentage

	Sessional				*After school clubs*		
	2007	*2006*	*2005*	*2003*	*2007*	*2006*	*2003*
Level 2	18	18	18	16	21	22	18
Level 3	52	51	48	39	43	43	32
Level 6	3	3	3	n/a	4	4	n/a

Percentage

	Holiday clubs			*Childminders*	
	2007	*2006*	*2003*	*2007*	*2006*
Level 2	21	19	14	8	5
Level 3	40	41	24	36	33
Level 6	7	6	n/a	2	2

[1] Due to the difference in the way data were reported in 2003, it has not been possible to provide comparable data for certain levels of qualification. There have been changes to the way that the levels are defined since the previous survey in 2003. Current levels 4, 5 and 6 (as defined above) were previously all part of level 4. Current levels 7 and 8 were previously part of level 5.

Note:

Base: All paid childcare staff 2007, 2006, 2005, 2003. All childminders 2007, 2006.

Child Minding: Manpower

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered childminders there were in each quarter in each of the last 10 years. [276656]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Number[1, 2] *of registered child minders for children under eight years of age, position at each quarter from 2003-04 to 2007-08*

	Financial year				
As at end:	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
June	70,000	72,700	70,900	71,600	68,300
September	70,200	71,900	71,100	71,200	67,400
December	72,000	71,000	71,500	71,500	65,800
March	72,400	70,200	71,600	69,900	64,600

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Data Source: Ofsted.

New Registers, the Early Years Register and the General Childcare Register (including its Voluntary Register), were introduced under the Childcare Act 2006 as part of the Government's reforms to simplify early years regulation and inspection. From 1 September 2008, Ofsted started to record providers in line with these new legal requirements. As a result of the new registers, data from September 2008 are not directly comparable with previous data and the reporting periods for 2008-09 are out of step with previous years.

Number[1, 2] *of registered child minders for children under eight years of age, position at each quarter in 2008-09*

As at end:	*Financial year 2008-09*
June	64,300
August[3]	63,600
December[4]	61,900
March	60,900

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] Data Source: Ofsted.

[3] Latest position before new arrangements introduced in September 2008, therefore coverage is up to end August only.

[4] First position since new arrangements introduced in September 2008.

Children in Care

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were in care in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [275234]

Beverley Hughes: The information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of children in care were placed with special guardians in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [276881]

(2) how many and what proportion of applications by local authorities for special guardianship have been accepted by his Department in each year since 2001. [276882]

Beverley Hughes: Applications for special guardianship orders are made directly to the courts. Special guardianship was introduced in 2005.

Information on the number and proportion of children in care who were placed with special guardians in the last 12 months can be found in table D1, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008'. This shows the number of looked after children who have ceased to be looked after at 31 March for 2004 to 2008.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in care have not been assigned a legal guardian; and if he will make a statement. [275450]

Beverley Hughes: The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) has 9,060 ongoing care cases, of which 635 are currently unallocated to CAFCASS guardians. This figure represents 7.0 per cent. of the total care workload. For statistical purposes, CAFCASS counts the number of cases which can include multiple applications and multiple children.

The increase in care cases has had an effect on the availability of Guardians. CAFCASS has therefore put a Duty guardian scheme in place so that urgent work is covered, and a solicitor for the child is always appointed in each case to look after a child's interests.

Children in Care: Per Capita Costs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average weekly cost to the public purse of housing a looked-after child in an independent children's home was in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [276651]

Beverley Hughes: The average weekly cost of accommodating a looked-after child in an independent children's home is not collected centrally by this Department. However, information obtained from the Office for National Statistics shows the average weekly unit cost of a child in a children's home, (including independent homes) is £2,402.

Children: Abuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what correspondence he has had with *(a)* the Church of England, *(b)* Kent police and *(c)* Kent County Council on allegations of abuse at Kendall House; what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the matter; and if he will make a statement; [271067]

(2) whether allegations of child abuse at Kendall House have been investigated by his Department and its predecessors on any occasion; [271068]

(3) what steps he has taken following the recent allegations of child abuse at Kendall House. [271070]

Beverley Hughes: The Department takes any allegations of abuse very seriously indeed. The Government commissioned two major reviews into historical abuse—Sir William Utting's report 'People Like Us' (1997) and Sir Ronald Waterhouse's report 'Lost in Care' (2000). Kendall House closed in the 1980s, but since then tighter controls have been put in place which address all the issues raised by the allegations about Kendall House. The Government changed the regulatory framework and brought in the Care Standards Act 2000, which focuses on safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

Providers and managers of children's homes must now be registered with Ofsted and comply with the Children's Homes Regulations 2001 and National Minimum Standards. These regulations are much more extensive than those which applied in the mid 80s and include specific standards on the control and issuing of medicines.

There is no evidence that the allegations made about inappropriate use of drugs at Kendall House were a widespread problem. Kendall House was inspected prior to the homes closure and the use of drugs in the home was part of that inspection. Allegations about Kendall House were also subject to investigation by the police and local government ombudsmen in 1994.

The Secretary of State has had no representations from the Church of England, Kent police or Kent county council on Kendall House. The Secretary of State wrote on 30 April to the Secretary of State for Health about this matter. The Secretary of State has also asked the Permanent Secretary to look into this matter and on his advice has concluded that, on balance there is not sufficient justification for a further inquiry on public interest grounds at this point.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 671-2W, on children: protection (1) how many outstanding serious case reviews were followed up in advance of the last biennial overview report; [271833]

(2) on what date he received each of the 118 serious case reviews subsequent to 31 March 2007; [271841]

(3) on which dates he received each serious case review in the period 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2007. [271842]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 29 April 2009]:* Officials follow up all outstanding copies of serious case review reports. We do not hold a record of the dates on which copies of the serious case review reports that have been passed to researchers for inclusion in the 2005-07 biennial overview report. The following table sets out the date of receipt of copies of the serious case review reports received subsequent to those included in the 2005-07 biennial overview report as at 22 April 2009.

Local authority	*Date copy of anonymised full SCR received[1] as at 22 April 2009*
Barnet	4 November 2008
Birmingham	17 March 2008
	17 March 2008
	23 April 2008
	8 October 2008
	20 March 2009
	20 March 2009
Blackburn with Darwen UA	25 July 2008
	16 October 2008
	8 December 2008
	8 December 2008
Bournemouth UA	3 November 2008
	6 November 2008
	1 December 2008
	22 April 2009
Bradford	16 October 2008
	16 October 2008
Bristol, City of UA	15 July 2008
Bromley	16 December 2008
	22 August 2008

Local authority	Date copy of anonymised full SCR received[1] as at 22 April 2009
Calderdale	20 October 2008 22 December 2008
Cambridgeshire	16 February 2009
Camden	3 October 2008 29 January 2009
Coventry	21 July 2008 21 July 2008 21 July 2008 27 March 2009
Croydon	27 February 2008 27 February 2008
Cumbria	10 February 2008
Devon	3 November 2008
Doncaster	25 February 2009
Dudley	20 February 2009
Durham	28 May 2008
East Sussex	12 February 2009
Enfield	8 October 2008 27 January 2009 30 January 2009
Essex	15 December 2008 14 April 2009
Gloucestershire	12 February 2009
Halton UA	16 March 2009
Hampshire	18 March 2008 28 July 2008 18 August 2008 2 April 2009
Haringey	12 November 2008 3 March 2009
Hounslow	4 November 2008
Isle of Wight UA	6 May 2008
Kent	21 April 2008 21 April 2008 21 April 2008 23 September 2008 5 December 2008 5 December 2008

Local authority	Date copy of anonymised full SCR received[1] as at 22 April 2009
Kingston upon Thames	7 March 2008 4 November 2008
Kirklees	29 September 2008 8 October 2008 14 April 2009
Lambeth	4 November 2008
Manchester	3 June 2008
Milton Keynes UA	18 February 2009
Newham	11 February 2009
North Tyneside	1 December 2008
North Yorkshire	11 January 2009
Northamptonshire	13 June 2008 14 October 2008
Nottinghamshire	19 June 2008
Oxfordshire	3 November 2008
Plymouth UA	6 October 2008
Poole UA	25 November 2008
Portsmouth UA	31 December 2008
Reading UA	14 October 2008
Redbridge	8 October 2008
Rochdale	18 December 2007 25 February 2008
Salford	8 April 2009
Sandwell	21 July 2008 1 December 2008 8 December 2008
Sefton	1 August 2008 1 August 2008
Sheffield	19 November 2008 25 November 2008
Somerset	06 January 2009 06 January 2009
South Gloucestershire UA	17 April 2009
South Tyneside	15 May 2008

Local authority	*Date copy of anonymised full SCR received*[1] *as at 22 April 2009*
	21 May 2008 16 September 2008
Southwark	24 January 2008 6 March 2009
St. Helens	6 March 2009 6 March 2009
Stockport	4 July 2008
Stockton-on-Tees UA	6 April 2009
Suffolk	12 January 2008 1 December 2008 5 February 2008 25 February 2008
Sunderland	20 February 2009
Surrey	8 November 2007 20 March 2009 20 March 2009
Thurrock UA	1 June 2008
Torbay UA	2 April 2009
Tower Hamlets	1 December 2008
Wakefield	1 May 2008 13 January 2009 24 March 2009
Waltham Forest	31 October 2008
Westminster	24 February 2009
Wolverhampton	19 August 2008
York UA	11 January 2009

[1] Multiple dates indicate more than one SCR report

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the remit is of Sir Roger Singleton in his role as Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children; and for what term Sir Roger Singleton has been appointed. [274250]

Beverley Hughes: As stated on page 7, paragraph 17 of 'The protection of children in England: action plan—The Government's response to Lord Laming', published on 6 May, Sir Roger Singleton has been appointed for a period of three years from 1 April 2009. His remit is set out in the action plan which states that his immediate priorities have been to advise on the development of the Government's action plan and the remit and mode of operation of the new National Safeguarding Delivery Unit. Sir Roger also issued a letter on 5 May that further elaborates on his remit by setting out his early priorities. The action plan and Sir Roger's letter are available at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/laming

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take with the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Justice to implement Lord Laming's recommendations on the setting of explicit strategic priorities for the protection of children and young people. [274257]

Beverley Hughes: As explained on page 29, point 1, of "The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan—"The Government's Response to Lord Laming", published on 6 May, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the Home Office, the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice will work together on strategic priorities for the front line and ensure effective co-ordination through a new ministerial sub-group and the new cross-Government National Safeguarding Delivery Unit. As set out on page 6, in paragraph 16 of the action plan, Sir Roger Singleton, the Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children, will advise Government on strategic priorities and the effective implementation of policy and report annually to Parliament on safeguarding progress, including the delivery of the recommendations from Lord Laming's report.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who has been appointed to the expert group established to assist Sir Roger Singleton in his role on the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit. [274285]

Beverley Hughes: The membership of the new Chief Adviser's Expert Group is set out on page 7 of "The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan—The Government's Response to Lord Laming", published on 6 May.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish new targets for safeguarding children. [274695]

Beverley Hughes: As stated on page 31, recommendation 4, of "The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan—The Government's Response to Lord Laming", published on 6 May, subject to the passage of legislation, new statutory targets for safeguarding children will be developed with stakeholders by autumn 2009 and published and implemented as soon as possible thereafter, in consultation with local partners.

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to reduce the time taken by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in Barnsley to deal with access cases. [276423]

Beverley Hughes: The role of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) in contact cases is to advise the court on what is in the child's/children's best interest and safety; but it is for the court to decide on the most appropriate contact, looking at the individual circumstances of case.

Where courts in Barnsley have requested a CAFCASS report in respect of contact applications they have been completed, on average, within 17 weeks in 2008-09. CAFCASS have agreed with the courts in Barnsley to reduce the time taken to deal with these requests to 12 weeks from 1 April 2009.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit will have powers to *(a)* examine local authority documentation and *(b)* intervene in children's services departments in local authorities. [274251]

Beverley Hughes: The remit of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit is explained on pages 7-11 of 'The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan—The Government's Response to Lord Laming', published on 6 May. This sets out that the unit will work with Ministers, local authorities, other national partners and with Government regional offices to challenge and support every Children's Trust in the country to deliver the best possible arrangements for keeping children safe. Regional Government office staff will work as part of the unit and, as is the case now, will need to examine some local authority documentation in their role of providing support and challenge. The power to intervene in the case of children's services departments in local authorities remains unchanged and rests with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of children in households with a projected annual income below £30,810 in 2009-10 who are not in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [277263]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not hold information on the household income of all households with children. Therefore it is not possible to calculate how many young people aged 16-19, who are participating in provision that meets the criteria for attracting EMA, could be eligible for EMA based on their household income but do not claim it.

We are currently working to improve our understanding of EMA eligibility through analysis of longitudinal survey data and this analysis will be made available in due course. However I can confirm that around 45 per cent. of 16 to 18-year-olds in full time education currently receive EMA and that, as of the week ending 15 May 2009, 564,897 young people had received an EMA payment so far in this current academic year.

Education: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the funds to be allocated by his Department via the devolved formula capital programme in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [276880]

Jim Knight: My most recent estimate of the funds to be allocated by the Department via the Devolved Formula Capital Programme direct to schools is £1,372 million in 2009-10 and £591 million in 2010-11. No decision has been taken concerning allocations beyond 2010-11, which is the last year in the current spending review period.

The allocation in 2009-10 includes an advance of 40 per cent. of the indicative funding for 2010-11, with a corresponding reduction in the 2010-11 figure. The advance is part of more than £900 million advanced to local authorities and schools, to stimulate local business and support employment. The 2010-11 allocation will be affected by updated pupil number figures.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of effects of sex and relationships education on rates of *(a)* pregnancy and *(b)* abortion in those under the age of (i) 16 and (ii) 18 years; and if he will make a statement. [276872]

Beverley Hughes: The recent review of sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools reported that the provision of SRE was patchy and that many young people were not receiving the support they need to make safe and responsible choices about sex and relationships.

As a consequence, we have taken the decision, subject to public consultation, to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education (including SRE) statutory. This will raise the priority of PSHE education in schools and ensure a more consistent offer to all young people. In addition, we are taking action to address the key delivery challenges identified during the SRE review, which includes improving the skills and confidence of those who deliver PSHE.

Teenage pregnancy rates are influenced by a range of factors. Increased risk of teenage pregnancy is strongly associated with poverty and poor educational attainment.

In addition, teenage pregnancy rates are influenced by: the quality of SRE young people receive; their access to contraceptive and sexual health (CASH) advice services when they become sexually active; and the extent to which parents talk to their children about sex and relationships. International evidence, as well as evidence from local areas that have made most progress in reducing under-18 conception rates since the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was launched, shows that comprehensive, age-appropriate SRE, alongside easy access to CASH services, brings down rates.

Middlegate Children's Home

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission a review of the future funding of the Middlegate Children's Home in Lincolnshire. [277065]

Beverley Hughes: The Government do not fund children's homes directly. It is the responsibility of local authorities to commission places in children's homes and to assess the need for, and availability of, sufficient children's home provision. Local authorities can obtain support in this role from the DCSF Commissioning Support Programme which will offer Children's Trusts bespoke support based on their needs and focus on key areas of concern.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to be fully operational; [274252]

(2) who will be responsible for appointing staff to the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit; [274260]

(3) which experts from *(a)* central Government, *(b)* local agencies and *(c)* the voluntary sector will be appointed to the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit; and how many regional representatives that unit will have; [274261]

(4) what the planned budget is of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit; and from which departmental budgets the Unit will be funded. [274284]

Beverley Hughes: Pages 7-11 of "The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan—The Government's Response to Lord Laming", published on 6 May, included an explanation of the steps to be taken to establish the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU), and noted that it would be operational by 1 July. This makes clear that the unit will be hosted within the Department for Children, Schools and Families and will include expert staff from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Department of Health as well as local agencies and the voluntary sector. Regional Government office staff will also work as part of the unit.

The precise number of staff, appointment arrangements and budget are in the process of being determined.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families will lead overall on the unit's establishment, working closely with the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Department of Health.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to make its first annual report to Parliament; [274255]

(2) when he expects the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to have developed guidance on referral and assessment systems for children affected by *(a)* domestic violence, *(b)* adult mental health problems and *(c)* drug and alcohol misuse; [274259]

(3) when he expects the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit to *(a)* set and *(b)* publish a timetable for the implementation of Lord Laming's recommendations on safeguarding children. [274262]

Beverley Hughes: "The Protection of Children in England: Action Plan—The Government's Response to Lord Laming", published on 6 May, states that the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) will support Sir Roger Singleton, the chief adviser on the safety of children, in making his annual report to Parliament on progress on safeguarding and that his first annual report will be made in April 2010. Page 37 of the response sets out that the NSDU will publish its work programme by September 2009 and that the Government expect the production of guidance for the referral and assessment of children affected by domestic violence, adult mental health problems, and drugs and alcohol misuse to be identified as an early priority. The Government's action plan published on 6 May also includes a timetable for the implementation of all Lord Laming's recommendations.

Pupils

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* financial and *(b)* other assistance his Department gives to local authorities in which numbers of children on primary school rolls rapidly increase. [275998]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* To provide for growth in pupil numbers the Department has allocated over £1.2 billion capital funding to fund extra school places between 2008-09 and 2010-11. Because primary pupil numbers are rising faster in some areas than previously anticipated, the Department are currently considering what additional support it can offer those authorities in greatest need.

School revenue funding to local authorities is based on actual pupil numbers recorded in the January School Census. For 2009-10, an authority's funding will be based on pupil numbers from January 2009. As a result, increases in pupil numbers up to that point will be reflected in authorities' revenue funding. In addition, authorities that have significant increases in pupils between April and September of each year may be eligible for an exceptional circumstances grant. For each authority experiencing an increase in overall pupil numbers above 2.5 per cent. between the January and autumn censuses, the grant will be an amount equal to 7/12 of their Guaranteed Unit of Funding per pupil for each pupil above the 2.5 per cent. threshold.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in England have fewer than 30 pupils; and if he will make a statement. [276884]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the table.

Schools with fewer than 30 pupils[1]. As at January 2009 (provisional)—England

	All schools	*Schools with fewer than 30 pupils*
Maintained nursery	437	5
Maintained primary[2]	17,041	133
State-funded secondary[2,3]	3,347	0
Maintained special[4]	984	58
Non-maintained special	72	12
Pupil referral units	456	297
Independent	2,348	479

[1] Includes solely registered pupils and pupils with other providers (PRUs only).

[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[3] Includes CTCs and academies.

[4] Includes general hospital schools.

Source: School Census

Schools: Buildings

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* England (i) received new school buildings, (ii) were substantially repaired and (iii) were housed in buildings considered unfit for purpose in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on repairs to school buildings in (A) England and (B) Leicester in each such year; and what estimate he has made of the average cost of providing a new (1) primary and (2) secondary school building in the last five years. [274627]

Jim Knight: Where repair expenditure on schools relates to the maintenance of existing assets, it is financed out of revenue funding. Where work involves new buildings or existing buildings are enhanced, it is financed from capital funding. The Department make revenue and capital allocations to local authorities and schools and relies on them to commission work in accordance with their asset management plans.

The Department carried out a survey of new and refurbished schools in July 2007, and the results, for England and Leicester, are shown in the following tables. The Department does not maintain records of buildings that are unfit for purpose.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England				
New Additional	26	27	21	32
Rebuilt Existing	101	144	175	161
Refurbished > 80 per cent.	52	81	57	94
Refurbished 50 per cent. to 80 per cent.	162	193	161	176
Total	341	445	414	463
Leicester LA				
New Additional	—	1	—	1
Rebuilt existing	—	—	1	2
Refurbished > 80 per cent.	—	—	—	—
Refurbished 50 per cent. to 80 per cent.	3	—	1	1
Total	3	1	2	4

School capital allocations by the Department in respect of England and Leicester for each of the last five years are set out in the following table:

£ million

	2004-05 Outturn	*2005-06 Outturn*	*2006-07 Outturn*	*2007-08 Estimated outturn*	*2008-09 Projection*
England	4,132	4,581	4,565	5,274	5,964
Leicester	18.3	25.5	8.7	7.5	14.8

The England allocation figures are taken from table 8.3 of the 2008 departmental annual report.

In addition, Leicester is in Wave 1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme, with a secondary school programme estimated to cost some £256 million.

The Department does not maintain an estimate of the average cost of providing a new primary school or secondary school, year by year. This is due to the fact that costs vary greatly according to size and type of school, local cost factors, site constraints and other abnormal factors, and whether VAT is payable.

Regarding the strategic Building Schools for the Future programme, the average cost of a new secondary school across the programme has been approximately £26 million.

Schools: Complaints

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints have been made about schools to Ofsted by parents resident in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last five years. [274239]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 14 May 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Ofsted's powers to consider complaints about schools became effective in April 2007; we do not hold data relating to complaints about schools prior to this. Ofsted may consider a complaint about a school from any person, not just a registered parent. This means the data below may include complaints from persons other than parents. Our systems do not record where a parent resides.

Since April 2007 Ofsted has received 88 complaints about schools located in the Essex local authority area. Four of these complaints were about schools located in the Castle Point parliamentary constituency. Annual totals are indicated in the table below. The reporting period for each year is from April to March.

Table A: Complaints about schools received by Ofsted

	Essex	*Castle Point*
2007-08	43	1
2008-09	41	3
2009 (since April)	4	0

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on field forces in each year since 1997. [269879]

Jim Knight: The Department has recently undertaken a review of its field forces working with local authorities (LAs) and children's trusts. The term field force has been used in a wide sense to cover all advisers funded or jointly funded by DCSF to work directly with LAs and children's trust partners. This includes NDPB staff where relevant, directly contracted groups of advisers, advisers who are co-located with the Government Office Children and Learner Teams and sections of DCSF Head Office directly supporting LAs e.g. Youth Task Force. In 2008-09, the costs of these advisers were around £90 million. Comparable information for every year since 1997 is not available.

Secure Children's Homes

[illegible] Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for [illegible] Schools and Families which secure children's [illegible] in England and Wales *(a)* closed in each of the last 12 years and *(b)* are scheduled for closure in the next 12 months; what funds his Department has allocated to all secure children's homes in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [276752]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) does not maintain a central record of children's homes in England and Wales that have closed in each of the last 12 years.

Following the announcement of the new Youth Justice Board (YJB) contracts, there are four secure children's homes in England currently contracted with the YJB who will not be offered a new contract. These are Kyloe

House, Northumberland; Sutton Place, Hull; Atkinson Unit, Exeter; and, Orchard Lodge, London. DCSF and the YJB will work with those units to agree transition arrangements which support the sustainable provision of welfare beds, while the YJB moves to its contracted total of 191 beds by March 2010. Any decision taken on the future of each home will be made by the relevant local authority or, in the case of the privately owned Orchard Lodge, Glen Care Group Ltd.

DCSF will continue to build on its previous capital investment by investing up to a further £50 million in the sector over the next four years to significantly improve the accommodation and facilities available in secure children's homes. The bulk of that sum will be made available over 2009/10 and 2010/11. Further funding thereafter will be subject to the next spending review.

DCSF is currently in negotiations with the secure children's homes with regards to the precise level of funding required this year for major capital improvement works.

Sixth Form Education: Finance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many representations he has received on the funding allocations made by the Learning and Skills Council to schools for post-16 education in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [271053]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* We have been working across Government to identify additional funding for the recent unanticipated surge in demand for education and training in part due to these exceptional economic times. Thanks to the £655 million funding announcement in the Budget, we will be able to deliver this and more, and fund learning for an additional 54,500 young people this year and next. The funding is split £251 million in 2009-10 and £404 million in 2010-11 and will fund an additional 54,500 learners each year. This will mean that we have funding for at least 1,550,000 for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

This will mean we have quickly reassured school and college leaders who had previously feared their financial allocations would not fund their growth in the number of young people wanting to continue learning. It will also mean that we can fund a further 20,000 young people who have yet to make their choice of learning place.

The LSC are currently working through the final 2009-10 school sixth-form and FE college allocations and will be writing out to them as soon as possible. At close of business on 21 April 2009 the Department had received 573 written representations regarding the post 16 funding allocations for 2009-10.

Social Services: Children

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many serious case reviews there have been regarding the death of a child in Essex in each of the last 10 years. [268004]

Beverley Hughes: I refer my hon. Member to the reply given on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 442W. This indicates that, of all notifications received between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 of serious child care incidents, one Serious Case Review had been initiated where a child died and abuse or neglect was known or suspected to be a factor in Essex.

Data prior to 1 April 2007 are not available in this form. However, the Department commissions an academic biennial analysis of all Serious Case Reviews to help ensure lessons are clearly identified and disseminated.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what funding his Department has allocated for the implementation of the latest Laming Report's recommendations; and from what budgets such funding has been drawn; [273664]

(2) what funding his Department plans to provide for child protection as a result of the Laming inquiry and the Baby P case. [271463]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are investing £130 million in social work reform over the full spending review period, of which, £57.8 million is additional new investment announced on 6 May 2009 as part of the Government's detailed response to Lord Laming's Report. This represents a substantial commitment to improve the recruitment and training and development of social workers and will significantly increase the capacity of the system to implement change immediately.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) by what date he expects a usability review of each integrated children's system and related local authority infrastructure and implantation system to have been completed; [275397]

(2) from how many local authorities the Social Work Task Force took documentary evidence as part of its work on the integrated children's system; [275398]

(3) whether local authorities will have discretion to opt out of the national integrated children's system recommended by Lord Laming in his report on Safeguarding Children. [275399]

Beverley Hughes: Lord Laming's report "The Protection of Children in England" identified a number of concerns in relation to the Integrated Children's System. Lord Laming recommended that the Government should, in consultation with social workers and their managers, take steps to improve the utility of the system to support them in their role and to ensure appropriate transfer of essential information across organisational boundaries. Lord Laming also recommended that the DCSF should undertake a feasibility study with a view to rolling out a single national Integrated Children's System better able to address the concerns his report identifies, or find alternative ways to assert stronger leadership over local systems and their providers.

In immediate response to Lord Laming's report, the DCSF asked the Social Work Task Force to accelerate its advice in relation to the Integrated Children's System and to advise how Lord Laming's recommendations in should be taken forward.

The task force's advice was informed by consultation with practitioners, managers and IT implementation staff at events around the country, by a number of visits to local authorities and by 649 submissions of on line evidence from individual practitioners and managers, and local authorities. It was set out in the task force's first report on 5 May.

As set out in "The Protection of Children of England: action plan", the DCSF has accepted the task force's recommendations in relation to steps it can take immediate to improve usability of the system and to support greater local leadership. We will shortly be writing to local authorities to set out detailed next steps, including explaining the arrangements and time scales for usability reviews of each local system.

The Government have also accepted the task force's advice that the future model for the Integrated Children's System should be locally owned and locally led, within a strong and simplified national framework which reflects the statutory requirements for children's social care, rather than a single national system.

In line with Lord Laming's recommendations, we are also taking forward a national study into issues relating to interoperability of ICS with other IT systems and how this can best be supported.

We expect the task force to make more detailed recommendations to us, in October, about the reforms necessary to support high quality social work practice. The Government will consider any further improvements to the Integrated Children's System as part of the comprehensive programme of reform for social work which we have committed to bringing forward in the autumn.

Social Workers: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time children's social workers there were in each local authority in each year since 1997. [276630]

Beverley Hughes: Detailed information on all staff, including children's social workers, directly employed by social services departments is collected through the Personal Social Services staff of Social Services Departments return (SSDS001) which was introduced in 1993 by the Department of Health. In 2004-05 responsibility for the collection of this data passed to the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. These data have been published on an annual basis with breakdown by local authority available in the supporting annexes published alongside each report.

Reports published from 2006 onwards are available on the NHS Information Centre website here:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/social-care/childrens-social-care

Reports published between 1996 and 2005 are available on the Department of Health website here:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalworkforce/DH_4000233

Sure Start: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Rotherham have enrolled in Sure Start in each year since 2003. [275354]

Beverley Hughes: Rotherham local authority currently has 21 Sure Start Children's Centres offering access to services to around 14,000 children under five and their families. The Department does not hold information centrally on how many children in Rotherham have enrolled in Sure Start in each year since 2003.

Sure Start: Warrington

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Warrington have enrolled in Sure Start in each year since 2003. [276539]

Beverley Hughes: Warrington local authority has 11 Sure Start Children's Centres offering access to services to around 11,500 children under five and their families.

The Department does not hold information centrally on how many children in Warrington have enrolled in Sure Start in each year since 2003.

Teachers: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers took early retirement benefits under the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the last five years for which figures are available. [272652]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of teachers who were awarded early retirement benefits from the Teachers' Pension Scheme in England and Wales in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08, the latest year for which figures are available.

Teachers awarded early retirement benefits[1] from the Teachers' Pension Scheme, 2003-04 to 2007-08, England and Wales

	Local authority maintained schools	*Other establishments[2]*	*Total*
2007-08[3]	8,800	2,170	10,970
2006-07[3]	8,690	2,300	11,000
2005-06	8,140	2,160	10,300
2004-05	8,250	2,030	10,280
2003-04	7,370	1,710	9,080

[1] Includes teachers retiring under the actuarially reduced, premature and ill-health retirement arrangements. Under phased retirement arrangements some teachers will remain in teaching service.

[2] Other establishments are academies, CTCs, sixth-form colleges, other FE colleges, and independent and HE institutions that are members of the Teachers' Pensions Scheme.

[3] Provisional.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Pensioner Statistical System and Database of Teacher Records.

Teachers: Plymouth

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants were employed in schools in Plymouth, Sutton (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [276683]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units in Plymouth, Sutton constituency in January 1997 and 2008.

Full-time equivalent teachers[1] and teaching assistants[2] in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units

Years: January 1997 and 2008, coverage: Sutton, Plymouth constituency

	1997	2008
Teachers	530	650
Teaching assistants	50	240

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.

[2] "Teaching assistants" include teaching assistants, higher level teaching assistants (2008), special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.

Notes:

1. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Teachers: Vetting

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons a teacher may not be required to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check; and if he will make a statement. [275453]

Beverley Hughes: Under the School Staffing (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 as amended, it is mandatory for CRB Enhanced Disclosures to be obtained on all newly appointed school staff. 'Newly appointed' is defined as meaning anyone who within the three months before his or her appointment has not worked in:

> a school in England in a post which brought him or her into regular contact with children or any post they were appointed to since 12 May 2006; or
>
> an FE college in England in a position which involved the provision of education and regularly caring for, training, supervising, or being in sole charge of children or young people under the age of 18.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Spatial Strategies

10. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for further reviews of regional spatial strategies; and if she will make a statement. [277608]

Margaret Beckett: Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) have been published for all regions with the exception of the south-west where we expect to publish shortly and the west midlands who are currently holding an examination in public.

All regional planning bodies have agreed timetables for further reviews and I have put details in the Library. (Once the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill receives Royal Assent and its provisions are commenced all existing Regional Spatial Strategies, together with Regional Economic Strategies, will become Regional Strategies.)

13. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for future reviews of regional spatial strategies; and if she will make a statement. [277611]

Margaret Beckett: Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) have been published for all regions with the exception of the south-west where we expect to publish shortly and the west midlands who are currently holding an examination in public.

All regional planning bodies have agreed timetables for further reviews and I have put details in the Library.

21. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for further reviews of regional spatial strategies. [277620]

Margaret Beckett: Regional spatial strategies (RSS) have been published for all regions with the exception of the South West where we expect to publish shortly and the West Midlands who are currently holding an examination in public.

All regional planning bodies have agreed timetables for further reviews and I have put details in the Library.

Retail Park: Kirkby

14. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to receive the planning inspectors' report on proposals for development of a retail park in Kirkby; and if she will make a statement. [277613]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Planning Inspector's report is due to be received early in July.

Home Information Packs

15. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of the effects of home information packs on the housing market since their implementation. [277614]

Mr. Iain Wright: Independent research into the impact of home information packs was undertaken by Europe Economics. The implementation of HIPs is being kept under review and an evaluation of the HIPs programme is currently planned for 2010 by updating 'The HIPs Baseline Research Report'.

Business Rates

16. **Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the change in liabilities on small firms arising from arrangements for transitional relief for business rates in *(a)* England and *(b)* Bromley in 2009-10. [277615]

John Healey: The impact of Revaluation on businesses is used to model an appropriate transitional relief scheme at each Revaluation. No formal consideration is made of the effect of the transitional relief scheme during each subsequent financial year.

However, the Government are aware of the impact that large increases in business rate bills can have on all businesses when transitional relief comes to an end. This is why we are allowing businesses to defer over two years 60 per cent. of the increase in their business rates bill for 2009-10 caused by the ending of transitional relief. That is in addition to allowing the deferral of 60 per cent. of the increase caused by the annual inflation adjustment.

Building Regulations: Water Efficiency and Scald Prevention

17. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the provisions of part G of the building regulations relating to water efficiency and scald prevention to become operational. [277616]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department laid before the House on 13 May this year a statutory instrument that makes amendments to part G of the building regulations. This includes changes to reduce the risk of scalding from hot water and introduces a minimum water efficiency standard for new homes. The provisions come into force on 1 October.

Unitary Local Government: Devon

19. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for the introduction of unitary local government in Devon. [277618]

John Healey: We have asked the boundary committee to provide advice by 15 July 2009 on whether there could be proposals for a single-tier of local government, and if so on what basis, for Exeter and the whole or part of the surrounding Devon county area, with existing, or if necessary changed, boundaries of Plymouth City or Torbay borough.

Under the statute, any decisions about implementing unitary proposals for Devon cannot be taken until six weeks after the 15 July deadline for receipt of the boundary committee's advice.

Community-based Enterprises

20. **Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the role of community-based enterprises in the future jobs fund. [277619]

23. **Mr. Martlew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the role of community-based enterprises in the future jobs fund. [277622]

John Healey: Social enterprises can tackle worklessness by creating sustainable jobs for people who find it difficult to enter the labour market and increasing enterprise levels among women, under-represented groups and young people.

On 13 May my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State chaired a seminar attended by the Prime Minister; the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions; the Minister for the Cabinet Office and myself. Also attending were leading social entrepreneurs and social enterprise practitioners.

We challenged the community and social enterprise sector to take up the opportunities and the challenge that the Future Jobs Fund offers. We want to see social enterprises creating as many jobs as they can through the Future Jobs Fund; perhaps up to 10 per cent. of the 150,000 envisaged through the fund.

On 12 May the Secretary of State attended a Social Enterprise summit at Coin Street Community Builders along with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions; the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

A summary of the discussion at the summit is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/210555/summit_report.pdf

Traveller Sites

22. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received from local authorities on the use of enforcement action at Travellers' sites. [277621]

Mr. Khan: I have not received any recent representations from local authorities on the use of enforcement action at Travellers' sites.

Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's consultation document on the right to enfranchise provisions of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002, what plans her Department has to bring forward legislative proposals on leasehold and commonhold reform. [277032]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is currently completing the programme of leasehold reform put in place by the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (the Act). This consists of taking forward the proposals contained in the current consultation on the right to enfranchise provisions published on 12 May, and the introduction of the provisions in the Act dealing with accounting for service charge monies.

Commonhold is the policy responsibility of the Lord Chancellor and Justice Secretary, who has no plans to bring forward legislative proposals for reform in this area at present.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role local strategic partnerships will have in *(a)* setting levels of new community infrastructure levy and *(b)* deciding how monies raised from the levy will be used. [277016]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government will consult in the summer on its proposals for the procedures for setting the level of CIL through a charging schedule and applying

CIL revenue to infrastructure. These will make proposals about how local authorities should engage and work with their strategic partners. Local strategic partnerships should already be involved in the infrastructure planning that will provide a basis for CIL charge setting.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answers to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1101-2W and 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 629W, on the community infrastructure levy, who will appoint the independent examiner responsible for reviewing community infrastructure levy charges; and whether the examiners' office will be classified as a public body. [277116]

Mr. Iain Wright: The charging authority will appoint the independent examiner to review its draft community infrastructure levy (CIL) charging schedule. The status of the examiner is set out in section 212 of the Planning Act 2008. The Government's August 2008 policy statement on CIL says (paragraph 3.43):

> "It will be important that the independent person testing the draft charging schedule is seen to be independent and has the confidence of those participating in debate on its contents. The Government's lead option is that the Planning Inspectorate should lead the examination of charging schedules with the assistance where necessary of expert assessors from, for example, the Valuation Office Agency."

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answers to the hon. Member for Meriden of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1101-2W and 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 629W, on the community infrastructure levy, whether the rate of the levy will be capped. [277117]

Mr. Iain Wright: Charging authorities will be responsible for setting the proposed rate of community infrastructure levy for their area subject to independent testing. Sections 205 to 225 of the Planning Act 2008 set out this framework.

Council Housing: Brighton and Hove

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* she, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in her Department have had any recent meetings with HM Treasury representatives at which the proposed funding structure for Brighton and Hove City Council's local delivery vehicle has been discussed. [276635]

Mr. Iain Wright: No such meetings have taken place.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were in temporary accommodation in Brighton and Hove in each of the last three years. [276636]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the number of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figures include: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by Brighton and Hove, as at the end of December for each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

Number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by Brighton and Hove, as at 31 December 2006-08

	Number
2006	622
2007	487
2008	388

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations have been received by her Department from *(a)* people and *(b)* social housing tenants in Brighton and Hove on (i) a further stock transfer ballot and (ii) a transfer of housing stock to registered social landlords; and how many such representations were in favour of a stock transfer. [276637]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have not received any correspondence regarding proposals to transfer Brighton and Hove city council's housing stock since the ballot the council held in February 2007.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to Brighton and Hove City Council on *(a)* private finance options for funding its local delivery vehicle and *(b)* its budgeting for prudential borrowing. [276638]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have not issued any guidance, but have written to the council about their proposals. We are awaiting a response.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to announce her decision on Brighton and Hove City Council's proposed local delivery vehicle. [276639]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have written to the council subsequent to its formal application for consent to lease stock to its proposed local delivery vehicle and are awaiting a response.

Derelict Land

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the monetary value of land banks held by registered social landlords was in each of the last five years; [274827]

(2) how many registered social landlords registered new land banks in each of the last five years; [274840]

(3) how many registered social landlords operate land banks; and what guidance her Department issues on how such assets should be classified in the landlord's accounts. [274841]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Tenant Services Authority (TSA), the independent regulator of the registered social landlord (RSL) sector, does not monitor all RSL land banks on a comprehensive basis. The TSA does not register land banks held by RSLs. However, they do collect information on such holdings of undeveloped land for the larger developing RSLs.

The TSA has been monitoring this type of activity since January 2009.

Their latest figures, from April 2009, show that 100 associations have land yet to be developed with an overall value of £1.2 billion.

Lank banks are, in accounting terms, acquisitions of fixed assets in anticipation of future development plans and are therefore covered by the normal accounting requirements for fixed assets. Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 15, Tangible Fixed Assets, is issued by the Accounting Standards Board and this will cover the accounting treatment of land banking by RSLs.

Empty Property

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1365W, on empty property, if she will place in the Library a copy of each handout and presentation delivered at the Empty Homes seminar. [276920]

Mr. Iain Wright: The presentations at the Empty Homes seminar held on 23 April were all given by speakers from external stakeholders, who are responsible for their own presentations and handouts.

Green Belt: North West

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to protect *(a)* greenbelt and *(b)* open green spaces in (i) Greater Manchester, (ii) Tameside Metropolitan Borough area and (iii) Stockport Metropolitan Borough area. [277501]

Mr. Iain Wright: Policy RD4 of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS), published by my Department, states that there is no need for any exceptional substantial strategic change to the green belt and its boundaries in Greater Manchester before 2011. Strategic studies may be undertaken to inform future reviews of the RSS. However, the presumption will continue to be against substantial change after that date. Policy EM3 of the RSS also promotes the conservation and enhancement of open green spaces.

At the local level, the existing unitary development plans adopted by Stockport and Tameside Councils contain policies which seek to protect the green belt and open spaces.

It is for local councils to consider whether there is any need for detailed local boundary changes to the green belt for exceptional purposes through the preparation of their local development framework (LDF). However, any such changes would need to be justified against national planning policy as set out in planning policy guidance note 2, which seeks to preserve green belts, and would be examined by an independent inspector as part of the development plan process.

In accordance with national policy in planning policy guidance note 17, local councils should also plan for adequate provision of open space through their LDF.

Green Belt: South East

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effects on the environment of the proposals in the South East Plan on green belt protection. [276925]

Mr. Iain Wright: The South East Plan (Policy SP5) states that the existing broad extent of green belts in the region is appropriate and will be retained and supported. The opportunity should be taken to improve their land-use management and access as part of the initiatives to improve the rural urban fringe.

The plan also calls for selective reviews of a small portion of the green belt where this may be the most sustainable location for the region's development needs. However, the plan makes it clear that where any green belt land is lost, consideration should be given to carrying out a further review to determine whether additional land should be designated as green belt, thus maintaining its overall extent.

A full sustainability appraisal was undertaken of the proposals in the final version of the South East Plan. All south-east MPs and MEPs were sent a copy of the sustainability appraisal report. This is available in the Libraries of both Houses and may be viewed on the website of the Government Office for the South East at:

www.gos.gov.uk/gose

Homelessness

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many statutorily homeless households were housed by *(a)* registered social landlords and *(b)* local authorities in each region in each of the last five years. [273404]

Mr. Iain Wright: Lets to statutorily homeless households owed the main homelessness duty are reported by registered social landlords through the Continuous Recording of Lettings (CORE) system, which covers the period 1 April to 31 March. The number of lets to statutorily homeless households owed the main homelessness duty reported by registered social landlords for each region in the last five years is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of lettings reported by RSL landlords made to statutorily homeless households owed the main homelessness duty (by region)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	1,700	1,850	2,120	2,390	2,660
North West	5,030	5,440	6,220	6,400	6,730
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,500	2,500	2,950	3,160	3,640
East Midlands	2,640	2,240	2,640	2,720	2,750
West Midlands	5,740	4,500	4,130	4,230	4,660
East of England	3,930	3,990	4,230	5,060	4,530
London	6,900	6,730	5,800	6,920	6,910
South East	6,000	5,730	5,630	5,910	5,600
South West	4,810	4,470	4,940	4,750	4,860
England	39,260	37,530	38,640	41,500	42,320

Notes:
1. Figures reported by RSL landlords should show only those lettings made to applicants who were owed a main homelessness duty (under Section 193 of the Housing Act 1996). However it is possible that a number of applicants who were found to be homeless, but were not owed a main duty have also been included, so these figures may be over-reported.
2. RSLs with less than 250 units are not required to complete CORE returns.
3. The figures include general needs and supported housing lets.

Source:
Continuous Recording of Lettings (CORE)

Lets to statutorily homeless households owed the main homelessness duty are reported annually by local authorities via the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA), covering the period 1 April to 31 March. The number of lets to statutorily homeless households owed the main homelessness duty reported by local authorities for each region in the last five years is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of lettings reported by LA landlords made to statutorily homeless households owed the main homelessness duty (by region)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	3,890	3,670	2,700	2,300	2,100
North West	5,420	6,510	5,960	4,770	3,100
Yorkshire and the Humber	8,900	7,680	5,320	4,480	5,250
East Midlands	3,930	4,350	3,960	3,250	2,920
West Midlands	7,300	6,560	5,230	4,640	4,400
East of England	4,100	3,840	3,260	2,770	2,320
London	11,720	11,130	9,310	7,820	7,080
South East	3,700	3,580	3,270	2,700	2,710
South West	3,810	3,830	2,910	2,290	1,420
England	52,770	50,330	41,040	34,970	31,300

Notes:
1. LA reported figures relate to households accepted as owed the main homelessness duty (section 193(2) of the Housing Act 1996).
2. Figures include general needs and supported housing lets.

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix

Housing: City of Westminster

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has provided for housing to *(a)* Westminster City Council and *(b)* City West Homes in each of the last five years; from what budgets such funding has been drawn; and for what purposes her Department disbursed. [276277]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table sets out the Housing Revenue Account expenditure allowances and capital allocations that the Department has provided to Westminster city council in each of the last five years. All funds were allocated for the repairs, maintenance and upkeep of properties in Westminster.

Westminster city council provides funding directly to its ALMO City West Homes via an annual management fee. The Department does not provide funding direct to City West Homes.

Westminster city council housing funding allocations

£

Housing Revenue Account allowances

	Management	*Maintenance*	*Major Repairs*	*Regional Housing LA Decent Homes*	*ALMO Capital*	*HRA subsidy payments*	*Private Sector Renewal (Capital Grant)*
2004-05	14,001,286	19,450,500	11,651,300	7,853,000	27,593,000	16,167,991	0
2005-06	13,996,468	19,439,436	11,403,339	16,728,000	26,107,000	14,622,965	0
2006-07	14,634,094	20,094,134	11,156,798	7,863,000	—	13,498,772	0
2007-08	14,697,416	20,158,474	11,412,219	6,468,000	—	10,290,215	0
2008-09	14,762,776	20,098,087	11,342,664	0	—	6,853,085	6,468,000
Total	72,092,038	99,240,630	56,967,400	38,912,000	53,700,000	61,432,000	6,468,000

Housing: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in updating the Housing Corporation's publication Insurance for All for providers of social housing in light of the recommendations of the Pitt report on flooding. [277443]

Mr. Iain Wright: Recommendation 30 of Sir Michael Pitt's report was that the Housing Corporation's publication 'Insurance for All' should be updated. This recommendation is being taken forward in line with the Government's response to the report, which was published on 17 December 2008—see page 67 of the following link:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/floods07.htm

The timetable for completing this work will be consistent with the TSA's wider responsibilities for monitoring the overall health of the housing association sector and for establishing the new regulatory framework for social housing during 2010.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what receipts her Department and its predecessors received from *(a)* Social Homebuy, *(b)* Right to Buy and *(c)* Right to Acquire sales in each year since 1997; and what percentage of each annual receipt was used to provide more social lettings. [274850]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1118W. Prior to 1 April 2004, receipts arising from the disposal of dwellings under right to buy (RTB) were retained by the local authorities, although authorities with debt set aside 75 per cent. of that receipt to repay their housing debt.

Social homebuy sales have only been made since February 2007. Receipts arising from right to acquire (RTA) sales and social homebuy sales by housing associations are retained by registered social landlords (RSLs) and are reinvested in the provision of affordable housing. Local authorities are allowed to retain all social homebuy sales receipts, provided these are used for the purposes set out in statutory instrument 2006/521.

The following table shows for each financial year since 2004-05 the total housing receipts received by the Department. Data on RTB and local authority social homebuy receipts received by the Department are not collected separately, but most of these arise from RTB sales. The table also shows the amount of those receipts received by the Department which were then passed on to the Exchequer.

£ million

	Receipts received by the Department	*Receipts passed on to the Exchequer*
2004-05	1,694	1,639
2005-06	1,065	990
2006-07	839	735
2007-08	694	588
2008-09[1]	138.2	134.3

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are estimates.

The following table shows the amount invested by central Government in housing capital projects. It also shows how much of that was expenditure through the Home and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme on new build and acquisitions on both social rent and low cost home ownership schemes.

£ million

	Total Department's capital investment in housing	*Total expenditure through the Affordable Housing Programme*
2004-05	4,690	1,609
2005-06	5,020	1,554
2006-07	5,208	1,921
2007-08	5,532	2,029
2008-09[1]	6,006	2,625

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are estimates.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* new-build and *(b)* existing private sector homes were purchased for social rent by (i) local authorities and (ii) registered social landlords in each year since 1997. [274854]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of homes purchased for social rent by registered social landlords or through private finance initiative in England, from 1997-98.

	Registered social landlord acquisitions	*Private finance initiative acquisitions*	*Total social rent acquisitions*
1997-98	11,770	0	11,770
1998-99	10,950	10	10,960
1999-2000	9,120	60	9,180
2000-01	8,840	20	8,860
2001-02	8,140	40	8,170
2002-03	6,420	30	6,450
2003-04	4,290	0	4,290
2004-05	2,890	0	2,890
2005-06	2,460	0	2,460
2006-07	2,450	0	2,450
2007-08	3,390	0	3,390

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Investment Management System (IMS) and Private Finance Initiative figures from local authority returns.

CLG do not have complete figures on the number of acquisitions by local authorities or categorised according to whether they were new build homes or existing private sector homes.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the levels of supply and demand for social homes of three or more bedrooms. [275815]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government have commissioned a team from Heriot-Watt university, led by Professor Glen Bramley, to develop a model that is capable of estimating the number of households with an unmet need for social or affordable housing, or other housing related support. The contract was awarded in August 2008 and developing the model is expected to take around 12 months.

The new research will expand the evidence base on housing need, going beyond the estimates used by Kate Barker in her 2004 Review of Housing Supply to allow greater disaggregation of housing need by household type and region, as well as taking more account of the behavioural relationships that underpin household formation and tenure choice decisions.

In recognition of the need for more family sized homes, for the 2008-11 Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) we set the Homes and Communities Agency, a new target to increase the national percentage of larger homes of three bedrooms or more provided through the AHP from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. in 2008-09, rising to 33 per cent. in 2010-11.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 450W, on housing: low incomes, how many completed new build homes each percentage figure in the table represents. [277344]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 198-200W.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Stockport and *(b)* Greater Manchester in each year since 2001. [277528]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information in the following table has been supplied to the Department by local authorities and shows the number of affordable homes that have been built in *(a)* Stockport, *(b)* in the nine other authorities in Greater Manchester and (c) the combined total for Greater Manchester for each year since 2001.

		2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
(a)	Stockport	50	124	46	40	18	50	55	65
(b)	Bolton	217	272	116	90	198	103	115	180
	Bury	271	103	147	72	38	19	33	29
	Manchester	300	403	362	225	358	378	288	259
	Oldham	92	168	16	57	32	112	57	65
	Rochdale	59	158	25	62	23	71	12	49
	Salford	0	67	95	155	60	38	24	276
	Tameside	148	87	80	29	0	44	49	54
	Trafford	327	38	120	42	37	100	100	85
	Wigan	48	55	17	14	5	0	2	20
(c)	Greater Manchester	1,512	1,475	1,024	786	769	915	735	1,082

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to enable local authorities with retained housing stock to increase the supply of social housing; and if she will make a statement. [277532]

Mr. Iain Wright: We already expect and encourage local authorities to use their planning powers to help increase the supply of social housing. We announced in the Budget £100 million of new funding for local authorities to deliver new social housing at higher energy efficiency standards. In addition we have just concluded consultation on allowing local authorities to apply for any new council houses they build (or acquire or otherwise bring back into use) to be held outside the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy system. This will enable them to keep the rental income and sale receipts of any such properties, which, to date, has proved a disincentive to build.

While authorities without stock will be free to apply for both grant and exclusions from the HRA Subsidy system, we expect that it will be authorities with retained stock that will have the capacity to take advantage of the opportunity.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations have exchange schemes for social housing tenants who wish to move to a different area. [277701]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix collects information from local authorities on dwellings let through mutual exchanges. However, there is no direct question that identifies how many local authorities have exchange schemes for their tenants. As this information is not routinely gathered, to assemble these data would represent a disproportionate cost to the Department.

The Continuous REcording System (CORE) collects information from local authorities and registered social landlords but mutual exchange schemes fall outside the scope of this. As this information is not routinely gathered, to assemble these data would represent a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Housing: Rural Areas

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of housing survey coverage in rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [276644]

Mr. Iain Wright: In determining levels of housing provision, local planning authorities and regional planning bodies should take into account evidence of need and demand, set out in Strategic Housing Market Assessments, and other relevant market information.

The framework set out within our Strategic Housing Market Assessments Practice Guidance provides advice on the use of surveys where they are feasible and appropriate. Our guidance specifies that in rural areas the costs of face-to-face interviews can be expensive and a postal survey may be a more viable option.

The review by the hon. Member for St. Austell, "Living Working Countryside", published in July 2008 highlighted the problems of local authorities' information on housing need, particularly in rural areas. We are now seeking views on proposals to reward rural local authorities which are working with parish councils to:

Provide housing needs surveys of parishes; and

Using that information to identify sites for affordable housing to address the needs identified in the surveys.

The proposal is contained in the consultation paper "Housing and planning delivery grant (HPDG): Consultation on allocation mechanism for Year 2 and Year 3" published on 12 May.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in rural areas were living in temporary accommodation at the latest date for which information is available. [276645]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the number of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figures include: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

Of the total 67,480 households in temporary accommodation on the 31 December 2008, 3,840 of these households were housed by local authorities defined as predominantly rural (with at least half of their population living in rural areas).

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new affordable rural homes in smaller settlements have been completed since 2008. [276646]

Mr. Iain Wright: Of the total number of affordable housing completions recorded on the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) investment management system (IMS) for 2008-09, 2,420 were in small settlements in England.

The number of local authority affordable housing completions in small settlements is not collected centrally. Small settlements are defined as settlements with a population of 3,000 or less.

Housing: Standards

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord properties in each region do not meet the Decent Homes standard because of overcrowding. [276274]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Decent Homes Standard itself does not specifically cover overcrowding. 'Crowding and space' is one of the 29 hazards within the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS). To be decent, a home must be free of all Category 1 hazards under the HHSRS and also meet the other three criteria (adequate thermal comfort, repair and modern facilities and services). Under the HHSRS, crowding would constitute a Category 1 hazard if the property and its occupancy constituted an unacceptable risk of serious harm. A home is considered to be non decent through a HHSRS failure.

The 2006 English House Condition Survey, published in 2008, estimated through modelling that there might be fewer than 50,000 homes in this category for all tenures (private and social) across the country.

Local Development Frameworks

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to provide funding for local planning authorities to undertake changes to local development frameworks contained in the proposed Planning Policy Statement 4. [277240]

Mr. Iain Wright: As noted in the consultation impact assessment accompanying the new streamlined Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4), we do not envisage that our proposals will impose additional burdens or extra costs on local planning authorities. We believe that there is potential for real cost savings in the medium to long-term by presenting policies for economic development in an integrated way, particularly in terms of speedier and better quality plan making, and decision taking in respect to planning applications.

In particular, the revisions proposed to planning for town centres policy are amendments to the existing policy as set out in PPS6 "Planning for Town Centres", and are designed to improve the effectiveness of our 'town centres first' policy rather than making any fundamental change. Similarly, the approach to planning for economic development is intended to build upon the existing policy approach in PPG4 "Industrial, Commercial Development and Small Firms" by reinforcing messages and emphasising certain aspects of the approach.

Local Government: Camden

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements her Department has placed upon the London Borough of Camden to ensure it reduces its carbon emissions arising from *(a)* housing stock, *(b)* business premises, *(c)* schools and *(d)* public buildings; and what steps her Department takes to monitor compliance with such requirements. [275103]

Mr. Iain Wright: Government planning policy, contained in PPS1 Planning and Climate Change, requires planning authorities to set out percentage targets for low carbon/renewable energy sources in new developments. Performance against target is monitored through annual monitoring reports.

Part L of the building regulations sets minimum energy efficiency standards for new buildings and when certain categories of building work are carried out on existing buildings e.g. extensions, conversions, renovations, replacement windows and boilers. The Government have announced that they intend to seek progressive improvements in part L standards and has set targets for all new homes to be net zero carbon from 2016 and has similar stretching ambitions for new non-domestic buildings.

In addition, all new affordable housing receiving social housing grant through the Homes and Communities Agency must be built to at least Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 standard.

As part of the new Government performance framework, Camden is required to report against National Indicator 185—CO_2 reduction from local authority operations and National Indicator 186—per capita reduction in CO_2 emissions in the local authority area. In addition, Camden has selected National Indicator 186 as a stretch target and action under this indicator is critical to achieving the Government's climate change objectives. Performance will be monitored by the Audit Commission under the comprehensive area assessment (CAA) which will look at how well Camden's services are working together to improve the quality of life for local people. CAA will be a catalyst for better local outcomes, more responsive services and better value for money and an independent evidence base for central Government on progress against national priorities.

Local Government: Influenza

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment her Department has made of the levels of preparedness of local authorities for an influenza pandemic. [277028]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities have to decide how to meet their legal obligations to plan for an influenza pandemic under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Local authority compliance with the Civil Contingencies Act duties is assessed by the Audit Commission as part of their Comprehensive Performance Assessment process.

As members of Local Resilience Forums (LRFs), local authorities have played a full part in the development of local multi agency pandemic influenza plans. Over the last year, these plans have undergone validation by local responders and Government offices and at least one LRF plan per region has been tested via a table top exercise. Lessons identified will be shared locally.

Plans are available on local LRF websites and can be accessed through the UK Resilience pages of the Cabinet Office website:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/pandemicflu/plans/regional_plans.aspx

Planning Permission

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial developments have been (i) granted and (ii) declined in (A) Leicester and (B) England in each of the last five years; and what the most common reason for the rejection of such applications for (1) residential and (2) commercial developments was in that period. [276225]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of planning applications for residential and commercial developments that have been (i) granted and (ii) declined in Leicester and England in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

Planning decisions on residential and commercial developments in Leicester and England

	Leicester[1]				*England*[2]			
	Dwellings		*Commercial*[3]		*Dwellings*		*Commercial*[3]	
Period	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*	*Granted*	*Refused*
2003-04	825	20	128	17	49,500	24,700	23,400	3,200
2004-05	832	49	176	28	56,600	29,600	22,600	3,600
2005-06	888	57	200	32	51,300	29,300	21,900	3,500
2006-07	850	90	180	41	49,500	27,900	21,000	3,600
2007-08	878	56	206	40	50,500	29,100	21,900	3,800
2008-09[4,5]	818	25	142	13	33,400	18,900	15,000	2,500

[1] Figures as reported by Leicester.
[2] England figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and include estimates for non-responding authorities.
[3] Includes offices, research and development, light industry, general industry, storage, warehousing, retail distribution and servicing.
[4] April 2008 to December 2008. Information for January to March 2009 to be published on 26 June 2009.
[5] Provisional.
Source:
Communities and Local Government General Development Control Returns

Reasons for rejections for such applications are not collated centrally.

Property Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given on *(a)* the composition of and *(b)* the role of commercial developers in housing market partnerships. [277019]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our guidance on completing Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments, published in support of Planning Policy Statement 3, sets out very clearly the importance of a partnership approach in identifying land for housing.

It says that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should work together, and with key stakeholders, to undertake assessments to ensure a joined-up and robust approach. Assessments should preferably be carried out at the sub-regional level, for separate housing market areas, by housing market partnerships (where established). Housing market partnerships should include key stakeholders such as house builders, social landlords, local property agents, local communities and other agencies, such as English Partnerships (now the Homes and Communities Agency) where they have a recognised interest in an area.

Key stakeholders should be involved at the outset of the assessment, so that they can help shape the approach to be taken. In particular, house builders and local property agents should provide expertise and knowledge to help the partnership to take a view on the deliverability and developability of sites, and how market conditions may affect economic viability. Key stakeholders should also be involved in updating the assessment from time to time.

Regional Planning and Development: Finance

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding for infrastructure was allocated by her Department to each growth area in England in each year since 2005-06. [277527]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is provided in the following table.

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Ashford	3.6	4.9	15.1	10.9
London Stansted Cambridge Peterborough	25.4	38.9	79.4	63
Milton Keynes South Midlands	28.6	106.4	123.4	57
Thames Gateway	16.2	41.7	60	22.4

Since 2005-06, the Department for Communities and Local Government has invested over £696 million for infrastructure to support housing growth in the Thames Gateway and the other growth areas of Ashford, Milton Keynes-South Midlands, and London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough. This comprises Thames Gateway funding, the Growth Areas Fund (the Growth Fund since 2008-09), and the Community Infrastructure Fund (a dual-key fund, managed by the Department for Transport in 06-08, Communities and Local Government in 2008, and transferred to the Homes and Communities Agency in December 2008). This funding is additional to mainstream departmental funding in areas such as health, education and national transport networks.

Rented Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 18 of her Department's response to the Rugg Review Consultation, what existing powers would be used to take over the management of the housing stock of a landlord removed from the register. [277021]

Mr. Iain Wright: The proposals in the Government's response to the widely welcomed Rugg Review of the private rented sector are at a high level and still subject to consultation. Powers already exist under part 4 of the Housing Act 2004 for local authorities to make management orders which enable them to take over the management of certain privately rented properties where they consider that the private landlords of those properties are failing in their management duty. If our proposals for a national register for landlords and linked systems of complaint and redress were to be implemented, one option by which enforcement could be carried out would be to make use of the current powers.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* two bedroom, *(b)* three bedroom and *(c)* four or more bedroom (i) housing association properties and (ii) local authority properties have a single occupant. [277702]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the number of social sector properties with a single occupant with two, three and four or more bedrooms are provided in the following table. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing.

Reliable separate estimates for housing association and local authority tenants are not available from the survey.

Number of bedrooms in social sector properties with single occupancy, England, 2007-08

Thousands of households

	Number of bedrooms				
Tenure	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4 or more*	*All*
All social renters	962	443	231	15	1,651

Source:
Communities and Local Government, Survey of English Housing

Repossession Orders: North West

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home repossessions initiated by *(a)* building societies and *(b)* banks there were in (i) Tameside, (ii) Stockport and (iii) Greater Manchester in each of the last five years. [277504]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are two independent sources of data on actual numbers of mortgage possessions: The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA). However both are only available for the United Kingdom as a whole.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders latest press release on this is on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/media/press/2262

The CML data on repossessions are no longer freely available from their website. For detailed time series information members of the public can request to subscribe to CML to obtain access to a restricted website.

The Financial Services Authority data are available on their website at

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Doing/Regulated/Returns/IRR/statistics/

The CML and FSA release slightly different figures. The CML data are for repossessions on first-charge mortgages only, including Buy-to-Let mortgages, as issued by their members. CML estimate that their lenders currently account for 98 per cent. of mortgage lending. The FSA data, as well as covering possessions on first-charge mortgages, cover possessions on second-charge loans by Regulated firms (many second charge lenders are not regulated) but do not cover possessions as comprehensively on Buy-to-Let mortgages, as some of these are from unregulated firms. The overall effect of the differences is that the FSA's statistics on possessions are slightly higher.

Right to Buy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was received by registered social landlords from *(a)* right to buy and *(b)* right to acquire sales in each of the last five years. [276139]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on receipts from Right to Buy by registered social landlords (RSLs) are not collected centrally. Receipts from Right to Acquire sales are credited to the Disposal Proceeds Fund retained by RSLs and are reinvested in the provision of social rented housing.

Right to Acquire receipts are not identified separately within the Disposal Proceeds Fund which may also contain receipts from Social HomeBuy sales.

Annual account financial return received from the largest RSLs (with greater than 1,000 units) show the closing balances held in the DPF for each year to be as follows:

At March	*£ million*
2005	90
2006	110
2007	136
2008	189

Source:
Tenants Services Authority

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* right to buy and *(b)* right to acquire sales were made by each registered social landlord in each of the last five years. [276140]

Mr. Iain Wright: A table will be placed in the Library of the House which shows the number of Right to Buy and Right to Acquire sales by registered social landlord for each of the last five years.

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) from Registered Social Landlords.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 729-30W, on social rented housing, how much of the £100 million made available in 2008-09 was spent; and how much of the £300 million advanced to 2009-10 has been spent to date; [274186]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 729-30W, on social rented housing, how many of the additional social rented homes are under construction. [274187]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme provisional spend for 2008-09 was £2.6 billion including the £100 million transferred into this budget from 2010-11 resources. The Homes and Communities Agency accounts will be audited and a copy will be laid before Parliament later this year.

The funds brought forward as part of the 2 September 2008 announcement and pre-Budget report 24 November from 2010-11 into earlier years for social rented homes from within the Affordable Housing Programme budget remains part of that overall programme and delivery of outputs with these brought forward funds is not monitored separately. Targets set for the Homes and Communities Agency will reflect the funds being invested.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social tenants are housed by housing associations; and how many such tenants have a right to acquire their property. [277022]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are 1.976 million housing association tenants in England.

Over 210,000 housing association tenants (10 per cent.) may qualify for the right to acquire because their homes have been built with public funds since 1 April 1997. Some of the tenants of the 940,000 homes which have transferred from local authorities to housing associations since 1 April 1997 may also qualify for the right to acquire scheme.

Approximately 18,000 (0.9 per cent.) secure tenants of non-charitable housing associations qualify for the right to buy scheme. In addition, 1.185 million housing association tenants (60 per cent.) who have transferred with their homes from local authorities since 1988 have a preserved right to buy.

Social Rented Housing: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing in each London borough are owned by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations; and how many there were of each in each of the last 10 years. [273634]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of social housing units in each London borough as at 1 April 2008 (local authority units) and 31 March 2008 (registered social landlord units and bed spaces) is shown in the following table. Local authority figures are reported for all self-contained units owned within the local authority area, regardless of which local authority has ownership.

Number of social housing units owned, England, 2008

		Local authority (as at 1 April)	*Registered social landlord (as at 31 March)*
London		435,542	350,596
	Inner London	259,459	201,079
	Camden	23,707	10,715
	City of London	429	549
	Hackney	23,536	21,590
	Hammersmith and Fulham	13,213	12,537
	Haringey	16,162	10,695
	Islington	26,485	14,933
	Kensington and Chelsea	6,996	13,365
	Lambeth	27,387	21,174
	Lewisham	19,907	16,437
	Newham	17,757	11,908
	Southwark	41,287	14,617
	Tower Hamlets	13,138	26,682
	Wandsworth	17,145	10,056
	Westminster	12,310	15,821
	Outer London	176,083	149,517
	Barking and Dagenham	19,461	3,440
	Barnet	11,051	6,904
	Bexley	13	12,953
	Brent	9,792	15,338
	Bromley	86	18,513
	Croydon	14,043	10,203
	Ealing	13,364	9,621
	Enfield	11,578	6,756
	Greenwich	24,449	10,724
	Harrow	5,091	3,640
	Havering	10,421	2,509
	Hillingdon	10,661	5,866
	Hounslow	12,942	6,645
	Kingston upon Thames	4,852	2,298
	Merton	6,364	4,821
	Redbridge	4,768	4,625
	Richmond upon Thames	50	9,790
	Sutton	6,689	4,179
	Waltham Forest	10,408	10,692

Note:
Local authority units include those owned within the local authority area, regardless of which local authority owns the units.
Sources:
Housing strategy statistical appendix (for local authority stock) (see Live Table 116) Tenant Services Authority's regulatory and statistical return (for RSL stock).

The following table shows the change in the number of local authority stock in each London borough over the last 10 years:

Change in local authority stock, as at 1 April each year; England

		1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
London		-20,330	-22,280	-20,991	-14,040	-16,270	-16,870	-14,517	-11,557	-5,880	-15,339
	Inner London	-13,500	-16,131	-9,009	-10,522	-9,303	-11,077	-10,439	-9,194	-6,551	-11,302
	Camden	-534	-595	-286	-790	-317	-198	-1,571	76	480	190
	City of London	-25	-27	-13	-12	4	-18	-12	1	-1	0
	Hackney	-3,842	-3,183	-637	-661	-1,776	-1,145	-577	-709	-149	-54

Change in local authority stock, as at 1 April each year, England

		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	Hammersmith and Fulham	-909	127	-761	-230	-270	-343	-363	-98	-51	-35
	Haringey	-202	-96	453	-865	4	-1,022	-82	-233	207	-402
	Islington	-729	-2,833	-1,193	-815	-573	-1,026	-1,400	-567	402	-361
	Kensington and Chelsea	-95	-61	-199	-9	-56	56	0	0	-162	0
	Lambeth	-1,179	-3,960	-1,[illegible]	-820	-1,142	-1,915	-1,567	-201	-2,401	401
	Lewisham	-698	-782	-688	-1,485	-1,368	-1,034	-1,026	-280	-349	-6,129
	Newham	-537	472	-151	-1,328	-737	-1,179	-677	-814	430	-201
	Southwark	-342	-803	1,028	-1,823	-1,165	-1,541	-1,461	-1,610	402	-586
	Tower Hamlets	-3,308	-2,364	-1,774	-1,228	-1,332	-1,014	-1,189	4,650	-1,952	-2,601
	Wandsworth	481	-542	-514	-127	-273	461	-297	40	-19	-134
	Westminster	-139	-531	-570	-329	-286	-339	-217	-60	40	12
	Outer London	-6,130	-6,149	-11,982	-3,518	-6,967	-5,793	4,078	-2,363	671	4,037
	Barking and Dagenham	-791	-919	-906	412	-700	-725	-520	491	-307	-198
	Barnet	-449	-306	-221	-256	-225	-524	-641	41	-32	-23
	Bexley	0	-1	0	0	-1	-15	15	0	-2	0
	Brent	-433	-758	-117	-392	-303	-257	-229	-95	1,510	-1,343
	Bromley	-17	-12	11	9	-5	-87	0	0	0	86
	Croydon	-144	-129	-284	-242	-268	-313	-175	-97	66	-93
	Ealing	-219	433	-92	19	-131	-756	-216	-135	460	-556
	Enfield	-1,197	-313	149	-589	-333	-343	-523	-78	-57	-10
	Greenwich	-1,822	-671	-830	-389	-540	-766	-587	-310	-394	-254
	Harrow	-104	-140	-292	-72	-581	-106	-57	-18	-12	0
	Havering	-236	-333	-292	-388	-155	405	-21	-224	-71	-546
	Hillingdon	-240	-264	-81	-103	-138	-183	-290	-176	-165	-148
	Hounslow	-95	-255	-774	-199	-312	-704	-366	474	277	-236
	Kingston upon Thames	-82	-65	-64	-30	-72	-464	-54	-55	6	-17
	Merton	-173	-318	-212	140	-391	-177	46	-58	-206	42
	Redbridge	-217	-143	-723	-180	-120	-120	-314	109	-204	-22
	Richmond upon Thames	-86	-206	-6,321	30	0	-30	87	-10	6	-33
	Sutton	-129	-203	-349	-373	-345	-350	-178	-182	-175	-643
	Waltham Forest	-376	3600	-304	-182	-2,359	52	-505	-68	-9	39

Note:
Local authority units include those owned within the local authority area, regardless of which local authority owns the units.
Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix.

The following table shows the change in the number of RSL stock in each London borough over the last 10 years:

Change in registered social landlord stock, as at 31 March each year, England

		Number of self-contained units				*Number of self-contained units/bed spaces*				
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
London		19,998	11,554	21,080	9,293	3,444	4,100	8,539	7,560	14,701
	Inner London	10,989	8,946	5,012	3,580	2,392	2,236	6,789	5,403	11,527
	Camden	-8	374	232	-60	68	-62	209	-486	-103
	City of London	0	0	0	14	80	-37	247	0	6
	Hackney	3,898	2,628	378	1,080	-6	-70	-194	191	217
	Hammersmith and Fulham	659	206	227	580	91	-110	-36	224	242
	Haringey	124	356	122	179	316	-69	55	24	212

Change in registered social landlord stock, as at 31 March each year, England

	Number of self-contained units			Number of self-contained units/bed spaces					
	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Islington	-1	1,441	300	280	379	893	447	12	899
Kensington and Chelsea	-163	128	95	-50	163	-103	-30	198	43
Lambeth	947	3,178	800	265	-130	262	531	1.442	954
Lewis ham	109	145	201	10	450	75	191	257	5,520
Newham	617	351	240	13	201	397	539	309	231
Southwark	14	109	697	498	225	738	30	335	260
Tower Hamlets	4,486	-136	1,918	563	757	300	4,063	2.190	2,779
Wandsworth	74	49	7	241	-83	37	-307	-93	166
Westminster	233	115	494	75	-99	-44	434	780	101
Outer London	9,089	2,608	16,088	5.715	1,052	1,864	1,770	2,157	3.174
Barking and Dagenham	342	273	203	109	43	220	135	178	183
Barnet	229	276	155	707	66	-309	56	182	100
Bexley	4,064	-105	2,201	33	-95	163	-206	-188	-121
Brent	1,828	301	522	49	530	-32	5	279	756
Bromley	-475	234	-9	213	-136	115	15	201	164
Croydon	587	165	156	100	116	100	183	116	335
Ealing	377	200	191	56	350	171	51	324	¦At
Enfield	1,439	106	485	109	-207	304	132	-51	188
Greenwich	1.670	171	2.313	96	273	-10	298	249	67
Harrow	35	-34	112	761	-6	98	97	110	21
Havering	59	43	38	-9	46	83	64	207	182
Hillingdon	232	240	290	284	73	330	271	238	319
Hounslow	326	107	359	102	223	83	323	272	66
Kingston upon Thames	109	9	119	54	46	102	59	-9	-26
Merton	1,197	98	-140	49	18	77	75	141	96
Redbridge	136	196	610	167	-44	196	98	32	28
Richmond upon Thames	10	133	6.330	-70	-43	-12	78	-26	77
Sutton	108	90	218	155	-306	284	43	41	491
Waltham Forest	583	235	1,212	2.309	-25	-90	126	-127	47

Notes:
Figures from 1998 to 2001 are based on counts of self-contained units only. From 2002 the stock figures include self-contained units and bed spaces. There is no change given between 2001-02 as these data are not comparable. From 2005 some general needs stock was reclassified as supported stock. This may have resulted in some of the older person stock being counted as bed spaces rather than self-contained units.
Source:
Tenant Services Authority's regulatory and statistical return (for RSL stock).

Figures for RSLs include general needs, supported housing and housing for older people accommodation. Figures from 1998 to 2001 are based on counts of self-contained units only. From 2002 onwards the figures in this table are not comparable to estimates for years previous to 2002 in the table because the stock figures from 2002 onwards include social rent bed spaces as well as social rent self-contained units; estimates for years previous to 2002 are based on self-contained units only.

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average weekly rent paid by a household living in a *(a)* local authority and *(b)* registered social landlord dwelling was in each of the last three years. [275571]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is collected on what local authorities and registered social landlords charge, rather than what was paid by a household.

Information on the average weekly rent charged by local authorities is shown in the following table:

Average weekly rent charged by local authorities

	England (£)
2006-07	57.94
2007-08	61.63
2008-09	64.21

Notes:
1. Rents data are based on the financial year. Stock figures used to estimate the average are taken at 1 April of the following financial year. Average rent data for 2008-09 are provisional.
2. Average rents data are based on a standardised 52 week collection.
Source:
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) second subsidy claim form.

Information is collected on the average weekly rent charged by local authorities via the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) second subsidy claim form. This information is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Live Table 702:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-702.xls

Information on the average weekly rent charged by registered social landlords for the last three years it is available is shown in the following table:

Average weekly rent charged by registered social landlords

As at 31 March	*England (£)*
2006	64.32
2007	66.58

Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) based on general needs stock only.

Information is collected on the average weekly rent charged by registered social landlords via the annual Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR). This information is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Live Table 704:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141632.xls

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in the level of social housing rents has been in each local authority in 2009. [277704]

Mr. Iain Wright: The data will not be available until after local authorities submit their second advance subsidy claim form. This form is not due to be submitted until 31 August.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1155W, on planning permission: caravan sites, (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's ruling made in respect of each of the 24 Traveller appeals which she upheld; [276962]

(2) what the planning appeal reference number for each of the 318 Traveller appeals upheld by the Planning Inspectorate was. [276963]

Mr. Iain Wright: Copies of 16 decision letters, with the decisions made by the Secretary of State on 22 out of 23 planning appeals indicated on the table, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1155W, have been placed in the Library. Three of the letters supplied relate to linked cases involving the Secretary of State decisions.

One appeal decision made in April 2002 has not been recoverable in the time available. One appeal decision previously listed as having been decided by the Secretary of State has subsequently been discovered as having in fact been determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

A table has also been placed in the Library containing a list of the planning appeal reference numbers together with local planning authority, date of decision, site address (where known) and description of development for appeals upheld by the Planning Inspectorate as indicated on the table pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1155W. As mentioned above an additional appeal, counted previously as being determined by the Secretary of State, has been added to the inspectorate's list which now totals 319.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 3 June 2009

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections: Local Government

Bob Spink: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission issues on the release of electoral packs to candidates at local elections and their agents. [277984]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it issues guidance to local government returning officers advising that packs containing nomination papers, an election timetable and guidance notes for prospective local election candidates should be prepared well before the start of the formal election period and supplied on request.

The Commission has also published performance standards for returning officers in Great Britain. In order to meet performance standard seven, "Communication of information to candidates and agents", returning officers must ensure that candidates and election agents are offered briefing sessions and are issued with written guidance on the election process.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of claims for single farm payments made in 2008 have not yet been settled. [277872]

Jane Kennedy: The percentage of remaining claims expected to receive a payment under the 2008 Single Payment Scheme is 1.2 per cent.

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many proposals for anaerobic digestion plants have been licensed by each local authority in each of the last five years. [275798]

Jane Kennedy: Prior to the implementation of the Environmental Permitting Regulations in 2007, waste disposal and waste recovery operations were regulated under separate legislation. Environment Agency records are therefore split between the two different information systems used. These systems are currently in the process of being integrated.

Five anaerobic digestion plants have been permitted by the Environment Agency in the last five years under waste management licensing regulations.

Site name	*Year permitted*	*Local authority (unitary or county)*
Biocycle South Shropshire, Ludlow	2006	Shropshire county council
Milton Ernest, Bedfordshire Biogen	2006	Bedfordshire county council
Norfolk Environmental Waste Services, Costessey Resource Recovery Park	2008	Norfolk county council/ South Norfolk district council
Brookhurst Wood	2009	West Sussex county council
Wanlip AD Plant	2009	Leicestershire county council

41 sites that utilise biogases derived from anaerobic digestion under the pollution prevention and control (PPC) regulations have been permitted across England within the last five years. Environment Agency records do not specify the local authority for PPC sites.

	Primary name	*County*	*Permit effective from date*
1	Minworth Sewage Treatment Works (STW)	West Midlands	6 August 2008
2	Runcorn Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW)	Cheshire	24 October 2007
3	Kew Biothane Plant	Surrey	19 August 2008
4	Gatewarth Industrial Estate	Cheshire	24 October 2007
5	Liverpool (WWTW)	Merseyside	24 October 2007
6	The Causeway	Greater Manchester	24 October 2007
7	Ringley Road	Greater Manchester	2 March 2009
8	Coney Lane	Merseyside	24 October 2007
9	St. Helens (WWTW)	Merseyside	24 October 2007
10	Dukinfield (WWTW)	Cheshire	14 November 2008
11	Davyhulme WWTW	Lancashire	26 February 2009
12	Stockport (WWTW)	Cheshire	24 October 2007
13	Bury (WWTW)	Lancashire	24 October 2007
14	Tower Brewery	North Yorkshire	8 November 2005
15	Minworth (STW)	West Midlands	4 October 2007
16	Bunns Bank	Norfolk	2 February 2004
17	Millbrook (WWTW)	Hampshire	17 October 2008
18	Costessey Resource Recovery Park	Norfolk	22 December 2008
19	Rye Meads Combined Heat and Power Plant	Hertfordshire	19 December 2006
20	Maple Lodge (STW)	Hertfordshire	29 March 2006
21	Deephams (STW)	Greater London	19 December 2006
22	Bran Sands	Cleveland	14 April 2005
23	Bran Sands	Cleveland	29 September 2006
24	Thames House	Berkshire	20 December 2006
25	Oxford (STW)	Oxfordshire	20 December 2006
26	Reading (STW)	Berkshire	19 December 2006

	Primary name	*County*	*Permit effective from date*
27	Bristol Waste Water Treatment	Avon	19 December 2006
28	John Smith's Brewery	North Yorkshire	12 March 2008
29	Tower Brewery	North Yorkshire	12 March 2008
30	Ainsbury House	West Yorkshire	26 November 2008
31	Wanlip (STW)	Leicestershire	31 March 2006
32	Strongford (STW)	Staffordshire	24 October 2007
33	Crewe (WWTW)	Cheshire	21 December 2006
34	Stoke Bardolph (STW)	Nottinghamshire	11 October 2007
35	Mogden (STW)	Middlesex	19 December 2006
36	United Utilities Water plc, Blackburn (WWTW) Combined Heat and Power Installation	Lancashire	17 March 2006
37	Beddington (STW)	Surrey	20 December 2006
38	Ellesmere Port (WWTW)	Cheshire	21 June 2007
39	Budds Farm (WWTW)	Hampshire	15 October 2008
40	Finham (STW)	West Midlands	3 October 2007
41	Wanlip (STW)	Leicestershire	21 March 2005

Animals: Imports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on the screening of imported wildlife for potential diseases in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [275940]

Jane Kennedy: Animals and animal products are imported from EU member states and from third countries approved as having equivalent animal health status to an EU member state for the species in question. Strict EU rules are imposed to prevent disease entering the European Community.

As soon as an animal is captured and transported it becomes a 'kept animal' and therefore animal health import legislation applies. This includes ensuring a veterinary health check is undertaken within the 24-hour period prior to loading at the country of origin in order to determine that no clinical signs of disease are present—the cost is met by the importer. An animal cannot travel to this country unless accompanied by a valid veterinary health certificate. Live animals imported from approved third countries must enter at a designated Border Inspection Post (BIP) where they are again subject to veterinary inspections for clinical signs of disease and the accompanying health certificates are verified. However, Animal Health does not keep a record of the individual costs for imported animals tested as part of its disease prevention measures.

When there is a significant increase in disease risk, DEFRA's Global Animal Health Division will act quickly to mitigate it, usually in concert with the EU. DEFRA may take unilateral safeguard measures to block legal imports from countries or regions with outbreaks of disease. Recent imports of animals which might present a risk would also be traced and checked.

DEFRA also carries out international disease surveillance work and takes emergency safeguard action to restrict or ban imports from countries that have reported an outbreak of disease.

Biofuels

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals to expand the categories of used cooking oil which may be classified as fuel under the proposed end-of-waste protocol. [276676]

Jane Kennedy: In October 2007, the Environment Agency issued for public consultation a draft end-of-waste protocol for "biodiesel derived from waste vegetable oil". Following consideration by the Agency of the responses to that consultation, the terms of the protocol were expanded to cover "the production and use of biodiesel derived from waste cooking oil and rendered animal fat". On this basis, a post-consultation draft of the protocol was notified to the European Commission under the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC). The notification period required under the directive has now ended and the Agency proposes to publish the final protocol in the next few weeks, and to review the published protocol in June 2011. In the meantime, the Agency has no plans further to expand the categories of waste covered by the protocol.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to inoculate badgers in Devon against tuberculosis. [277478]

Jane Kennedy: On 19 March 2009 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the initial outline for a Badger Vaccine Deployment Project, which will see vaccination of badgers in six areas with high incidence of cattle TB in England. Each area will be up to 100 sq km.

Plans for the areas have not yet been finalised. As potential areas emerge from our discussions with the farming industry, local engagement to encourage participation will be our highest priority.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277169]

Jane Kennedy: Euro Ministers are responsible for Euro preparations in their Department and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover.

Farming: Pigs

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned research on the effect in (i) England and (ii) elsewhere of intensive pig farming on developments in swine influenza. [276852]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is currently funding research at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency looking at cross-species transmission of influenza viruses. This work has been ongoing for a number of years. While this research is not specifically focused on the effects of intensive farming, it seeks to give us a better understanding of the mechanisms involved in cross-species transmission and hence to better understand the risks.

DEFRA funds a surveillance programme for swine influenza in England and Wales. This is delivered by Veterinary Laboratories Agency and has been in operation since 1991. Private veterinary practitioners can submit samples for swine influenza testing in cases where this disease is suspected. This testing is performed free of charge. Under this programme, samples are tested from pig herds from various types of production system. If virus is isolated from a sample, further genetic analysis is performed to determine if there is any evidence that the virus may be genetically different from commonly seen swine influenza viruses in the UK. In addition, a random subset of influenza viruses is subjected to further genetic analysis. The aim of the programme is to identify any unusual changes in swine influenza viruses and to monitor the natural evolution of the virus over time.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pig farms he has visited in his official capacity in the last 12 months. [277334]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has visited two pig farms in the last 12 months.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which genetically-modified products are authorised for sale in the UK. [277132]

Jane Kennedy: Decisions on the commercial release of genetically modified (GM) products are taken at European Union (EU) level. Currently there are 27 GM products that are authorised for food and animal feed uses in the EU. Full details are available on the European Commission website. Only one type of GM crop seed has EU approval for cultivation and is being sold in some EU member states. It is a type of insect-resistant maize known as MON 810, and it is not being marketed in the UK because it is unsuitable for our growing conditions.

Overseas Trade: Palestinians

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the outcome was of the meeting of 31 March 2009 on voluntary guidance on the labelling of food produce from the West Bank; [276766]

(2) when he expects to announce proposals on voluntary guidance on the labelling of food produce from the West Bank. [276767]

Jane Kennedy: Following the meeting on 31 March, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is currently working with other Departments including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Revenues and Customs, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Food Standards Agency to consider the clarity of labelling of produce from the West Bank.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received from the business sector on the effect of the operation of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 on businesses involved in the manufacture of fuels from waste. [276286]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA officials have received correspondence from companies whose business involves the processing of waste to produce fuels about various issues arising from the Court of Appeal ruling in the case of OSS Group *v.* Environment Agency. Officials at the Environment Agency have also held meetings with the companies concerned to discuss these issues.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Waste Improvement Network and *(c)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued on fixed penalty notices in relation to (i) closed lid policies, (ii) no side waste collection policies and (iii) putting household waste out at the wrong time. [275786]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has not provided any guidance on the use of fixed penalty notices other than what is available on its website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/cnea/fixed-penalty-guidance.pdf

This does not refer to (i) closed lid policies, (ii) no side waste collection policies and (iii) putting household rubbish out at the wrong time.

Neither the Waste Improvement Network (WIN) nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme has issued any such guidance.

Zoos: EU Law

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* financial and *(b)* other effects on zoos of EU regulations banning feeding of necrophagous birds with category 1 material; and if he will seek an opt-out from the regulations. [277087]

Jane Kennedy: No assessment of the financial and other effects on zoos of banning the feeding of necrophagous birds with category 1 material has been made. The EU Animal by-products regulation 1774/2002/EC only permits the feeding of category 1 material to endangered or protected species of necrophagous birds and other species living in their natural habitat, for the promotion of biodiversity. However, it does permit member states to authorise the feeding of animal by-products which do not contain specified risk material and other category 1 animal by-products to birds of prey and other carnivorous animals in zoos. The UK exercises this derogation.

The European Council and Parliament are likely to shortly agree amendments to the regulation which, among other things, would allow member states to permit feeding of certain category 1 material to necrophagous birds and other carnivorous animals in zoos. The UK would be looking to take advantage of such a provision and understands that after the amended regulation is agreed, work will commence on laying down implementing rules in Brussels which would permit such feeding while ensuring protection of animal and public health.

A derogation to permit the feeding of fallen stock to necrophagous birds is available to Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal and France as part of approved conservation measures for vultures. This derogation is not available in the UK. We understand that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is content with the existing arrangement of the feeding of category 2 and 3 material (ie butchers' waste) to wild necrophagous birds and that a derogation to permit the use of ruminant fallen stock as feed material is not, therefore, necessary.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what standard security checks are operated at British airports for *(a)* economy class passengers, *(b)* business class passengers, *(c)* first-class passengers, *(d)* very important persons, *(e)* Ministers, *(f)* the Prime Minister, *(g)* Ministers of foreign Governments, *(h)* foreign heads of Governments and *(i)* foreign heads of state. [276792]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is responsible for drafting UK aviation security regulations which are served on regulated airports within the UK in the form of Directions. The Department operates a multi-layered approach to security that is proportionate to and commensurate with the threat we are seeking to mitigate. The primary objective is to protect the travelling public and, in respect of searching individuals, to ensure that prohibited articles are not transported on to aircraft. Airports and airlines are responsible for implementing the security regulations and the Department operates a compliance regime that inspects and where necessary enforces the standards required.

All passengers, including flight crew, staff, Ministers of the Government and Ministers of foreign Governments, regardless of class of travel, are subject to the following standard security procedures: identity check, access controls, security questions, 100 per cent. screening of hold and cabin baggage and 100 per cent. screening of the individual, where necessary enhanced via a hand search and additional technological enhancements.

In line with international protocols, and the UK's international commitments in this respect, a relatively small number of individuals in recognised positions are exempt from these screening procedures. This is in part a reflection of the degree to which security, in various forms, accompanies such posts or individuals.

You will appreciate that for obvious security reasons it is not possible for me to specifically detail the posts, incumbents and security measures that apply in these cases.

I can assure you that TRANSEC and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) hold a 'Restricted'—'Closed' list of persons that are exempt, or may be deemed as an exempted person, for the purpose of aviation security screening and that this list is subject to periodical review.

Aviation: EU Law

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of Regulation (EC) 80/2009 on a code of conduct for computerised reservation systems on UK *(a)* airlines and *(b)* internet ticket booking companies. [277188]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No assessment has been made of the likely effect on UK airlines or internet ticket booking companies of Regulation (EC) 80/2009 which entered into force on 29 March 2009 and which updated and replaced previous European Community legislation in this field dating from 1989.

Regulation (EC) 80/2009 results from a Commission proposal to simplify and update the Code to safeguard its key principles while increasing its relevance to today's market conditions. The Commission conducted a public consultation and an impact assessment when it proposed the legislation in 2007.

Regulation (EC) 80/2009 as adopted should enhance the ability of airlines and Computerised Reservation Systems (CRS) to negotiate competitive deals and bring reductions in booking costs or increased travel options which benefit the consumer. The Government considered that full deregulation was not yet appropriate and that safeguards should remain in place to guard against discriminatory behaviour, especially in view of the continued existence of some ownership links between airlines and some CRS.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275194]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has only started to hold separate records for late payment of commercial debts since 2008-09. The interest cost for this year was £84,000. Information for the previous two years could be provided only at a disproportionate cost as the interest charge are not held separately for those years.

The following agencies have not paid interest charges in the last three years:

Highways Agency

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Vehicle Operator Services Agency

Vehicle Certification Agency

The following agencies can provide information only at a disproportionate cost as they do not split the interest charges separately:

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Driving Standards Agency.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the current business plan for the flexible benefits project; and what estimate he has made of the level of take-up required for the scheme to break even. [277685]

Mr. Hoon: The flexible benefits business plan is a confidential document so it would not be appropriate for it to be placed in the House Library. However, we estimate that the level of take-up required to break even with the scheme is about 2 per cent. over three years.

Departmental Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many breaches of security have been reported at *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, *(b)* the Driving Standards Agency, *(c)* the Government Car and Despatch Agency, *(d)* the Highways Agency, *(e)* the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, *(f)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and *(g)* the Vehicle Certification Agency in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276950]

Mr. Hoon: Information on breaches of security for the last five years for Department for Transport Agencies is not held centrally.

The Department and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the ICO. Information on personal data security breaches is published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resource accounts as was announced in the Data Handling Review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the Statement of Internal Control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

Railways: Scotland

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 881W, on a London-Scotland high-speed rail link, what topics were discussed during the meeting on 24 April 2009; and whether any decisions on funding methodology for high-speed rail links were made at that meeting. [276928]

Paul Clark: There was a general discussion about the potential benefits of high-speed rail, including environmental considerations; the possibility of modal shift; economic priorities; and the consideration of the Scottish Government's views as work is taken forward.

It was noted there is still a great deal of work to be done in developing a business case and identifying funding solutions, and the Scottish Executive was encouraged to engage with "High Speed Two" as this work commences.

Road Traffic

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on contracts for collecting data on congestion on roads in England in each of the last five years. [276463]

Paul Clark: The following table shows spending by the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency on contracts which wholly or mainly collect and/or process congestion data. It does not include feasibility studies, research or analysis contracts.

Spending (£000 excl. VAT)

Financial year	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
DFT	1,624	1,388	1,486	1,861	984
Highways Agency	2,015	2,821	3,280	3,234	3,222

Roads: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which road building programmes completed in each year since 2005 have affected areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest. [276460]

Paul Clark: I have today placed in the Libraries of the House tables identifying major road schemes, costing over £5 million, completed by local highway authorities and the Highways Agency since 2005 and where the scheme has affected (1) areas of outstanding natural beauty and (2) sites of special scientific interest.

Speed Limits: Chideock

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department plans to make a decision on the cases of people wrongly notified of speeding offences as a result of the malfunctioning of the speed camera on the A35 at Chideock following the expiry of the March 2009 deadline for an announcement. [277485]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is currently working with the Dorset Safety Camera Partnership regarding speeding offences from a Traffic Regulation Order on the A35 at Chideock in Dorset, found by the courts to be invalid. Any announcement will come from the partnership. The Highways Agency is working closely with them and it is anticipated that a statement will be made shortly.

WALES

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277170]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Euro Ministers are responsible for Euro preparations in their Department and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover.

Radioactive Fallout

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether the proposed amendment to schedule 5 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, as set out in the proposed Legislative Competence (Environment) Order 2009, Cm 7608, will cover land-based radioactive fallout other than at military sites. [276851]

Mr. Paul Murphy: It would enable the National Assembly to legislate on radioactivity in these areas with certain exceptions. The exceptions relate to nuclear energy and nuclear installations, including nuclear safety and liability for nuclear occurrences, (other than the disposal of very low level radioactive waste moved from nuclear licensed sites) and the transport of radioactive material.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost was of holding the meeting of the Cabinet in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [274177]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 378W. An additional invoice of £4,788 has been received for the venue.

Domestic Visits: Costs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1429W, on domestic visits: costs, when he expects the information requested to be available. [260394]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not separately available. However, the costs will be included in the overall Operating Cost Statement of the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts, which will be published in the usual manner before the summer recess.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister who the members of the Special Advisers' Remuneration Committee are; what specialist qualifications each holds; when each was appointed and by whom; where the committee holds its meetings; what the budget of the committee is for *(a)* office accommodation, *(b)* staff costs and *(c)* travel and subsistence in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [270077]

The Prime Minister: The Special Advisers' Remuneration Committee has existed in its current form since 2001. It is chaired by the Leader of the House of Lords, and has as its members a HM Treasury Minister, a Cabinet Office Minister, and a senior Cabinet Office official acting as an Accounting Officer. The Remuneration Committee meetings are held on the Government Estate. The Remuneration Committee incurs no accommodation, travel or subsistence costs. Support, including expertise on remuneration issues, is provided from existing resources within the Cabinet Office.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

British Airways

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials of each grade from his Department and its predecessor were seconded to work with British Airways in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269849]

Mr. McFadden: Secondments are not managed centrally in the Department as they are delegated locally to line management. The information is not easily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have received assistance from the Capital for Enterprise Fund; and how much funding has been committed to date. [259008]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* As from 20 May 2009, the Capital for Enterprise Fund has made offers totalling round £9 million to eight businesses.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Capital for Enterprise Scheme began to operate. [261374]

Ian Pearson: The Capital for Enterprise Fund was launched on 14 January 2009, when a registration helpline was set up to manage inquiries and register applications.

Business: South West

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance the South West of England Regional Development Agency is providing to small and medium-sized businesses in the South West region during the recession; and if he will make a statement. [277286]

Mr. McFadden: The South West Regional Development Agency's activity to support SMEs during the recession involves two key strands:

1. Strategic Leadership

The South West RDA is an integral part of the South West Regional Economic Task Group (RETG), chaired by the Regional Minister for the South West, which is responsible for co-ordinating the region's overall response to the recession. It leads on work strands focusing on business support, skills and employment, and green economic recovery.

In December 2008 the RDA established a Regional Business Forum to enable regular dialogue with key business representative organisations in the region. It acts as a sounding board for new plans and initiatives and provides business a voice to help shape policy development.

Through its management of South West EU programmes, the RDA is ensuring that over £1 billion of EU and domestic investment from 2007 to 2013 is being targeted at improving the productivity of small and medium-sized businesses in the South West.

2. Support for Business

The RDA has been working to enhance the support already available through the Government's Solutions For Business services provided via the Business Link network. Since October 2008, Business Link has provided over 4,350 free Business Health Checks to local SMEs, and developed a Business Survival Guide to help small businesses cope with the downturn and prepare for recovery.

On 14 April the RDA launched its £10 million business loan fund which offers viable businesses with growth potential loans of up to £250,000. This augments the financial support available through the Government's Real Help for Business support package launched earlier this year.

The RDA organised eight workshops in April and May which provided 500 businesses in the region with advice, guidance and networking opportunities.

In November 2008 the RDA established eight Area Action Forces across the region to co-ordinate the public sector response to individual businesses in difficulty.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270523]

Mr. McFadden: There are less than five current suspensions in the Department. The detailed information requested could lead to the identification of individuals and therefore cannot be provided for reasons of confidentiality.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274184]

Mr. McFadden: The information is as follows.

	Number of staff dismissed
2002	10
2003	15
2004	11
2005	14
2006	9
2007	11
2008	9

Information for earlier years is not available.

The total number of staff dismissed for reasons of under-performance, including both capability and attendance over the period 2002-08 inclusive is 25. A breakdown by individual year cannot be provided on the grounds of confidentiality.

I have asked the Chief Executives of Companies House and Insolvency Service to provide separate data for the respective agencies.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 3 June 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 6 May 2009, UIN 274184, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House only has computer records of dismissals from 2004 onwards. The cost of obtaining information for previous years would be disproportionate.

There have been no dismissals for under performance since 2004. The total number of dismissals is as follows:

	Number
2004	1
2005	5
2006	8
2007	6
2008	3
2009 to date	2

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 3 June 2009:

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2008/2880) asking how many member of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed (a) for under-performance and (b) in total in each of the last 10 years.

The numbers of dismissals within The Insolvency Service are shown in the table below:

The figures shown for under-performance include dismissals due to unsatisfactory attendance:

	Dismissals for under-performance	*Total number of dismissals*
1999	1	1
2000	3	4
2001	5	9
2002	6	7
2003	4	4
2004	14	15
2005	4	6
2006	10	11
2007	12	16
2008	9	14
2009 (to date)	2	2

Departmental Lost Property

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of replacing lost or stolen property from his Department was in the last 12 months. [268036]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1333W.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on placing advertisements in *(a)* weekly and *(b)* regional newspapers in each of the last five years. [277067]

Mr. McFadden: The following was spent on regional press advertising by the former DTI and its agencies via the Central Office of Information:

	£
2002-03	439,445
2003-04	641,875
2004-05	729,343
2005-06	364,982

The following was spent by the Department on national and regional press advertising via the Central Office of Information, but cannot be broken down to show only spend on regional newspapers:

	£
2006-07	675,522
2007-08	222,273

Departmental Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2298W, on official cars, how many of the cars owned by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are over six years old. [276778]

Mr. McFadden: BERR does not own any cars.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1489W.

I have approached the Chief Executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House agencies and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 3 June 2009:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 18 May 2009, UIN 276778, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House does not own any cars. The only vehicle we do own is a van which is under six years old.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 3 June 2009:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2008/3015) asking pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2009, Official Report, column 2298W, on official cars, how many of the cars owned by (a) his Department and (b) its agencies are over six years old.

The Insolvency Service does not own any official cars.

Departmental Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many breaches of security there have been at *(a)* Companies House and *(b)* the Insolvency Service in the last five years; and what procedures are invoked in each organisation when a breach of security relating to personal data is identified. [276942]

Mr. McFadden: There have been no breaches of security into Companies House main building or any items stolen. However, in the last five years, three bicycles were stolen from the car park and four laptops have been stolen from private premises.

There have been no breaches of security relating to personal data in the last five years. Companies House has a documented security incident procedure in line with the requirements of HMGIA Standard No. 6—Protecting Personal Data and Managing Information Risk and the Security Framework. Any reportable breaches are recorded in Companies House Annual Report and Accounts.

The Insolvency Service has experienced one breach of security in the last five years, namely the theft of four laptops from its Manchester office on 28 August 2008. Only one of the laptops contained personal data. The breach was reported to the police, Ministers, Cabinet Office and the Information Commissioner's Office. A press release was also issued in relation to the incident.

The Insolvency Service follows Cabinet Office policies and procedures in dealing with notification of breaches involving personal data.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department and its predecessor spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274209]

Mr. McFadden: BERR spend on recycled office supplies in the last 12 months up to the end of April 2009 was £220,250.

BERR and its predecessor spent the following on printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years:

	£
2003-04	87,013.44
2004-05	202,749.92
2005-06	235,448.49
2006-07	227,642.42
2007-08	202,015.25
2008-09	289,945.98

BERR purchase remanufactured ink cartridges, unless stock availability prevents this.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average waiting time for callers to his Department's telephone help lines was in the latest period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [276868]

Mr. McFadden: In the last three months the Inquiry Unit received 28,316 calls. 97 per cent. of these calls were answered within 15 seconds.

Directors: Disqualification

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department provides to the Insolvency Service on procedures to be followed when people who are subject to a disqualification order or undertaking apply for permission to act as a director or take part in the management of a specific company. [277313]

Mr. McFadden: No guidance is provided by BERR to the Insolvency Service on the procedures that need to be followed. Such procedures are largely determined by the courts, the legislation and the Civil Procedures Rules. The Insolvency Service has developed its approach to such applications by referral to prior case judgments and to legal advice.

To assist applicants, the Insolvency Service provides a guidance sheet (approved by Treasury Solicitors) to potential applicants which includes details of the information which my noble Friend the Secretary of State considers should normally be included in an applicant's evidence.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people who are subject to a disqualification order or undertaking have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been successful in an application to act as a director or take part in the management of a specific company in each month since January 1997. [277314]

Mr. McFadden: From 1 April 2006 the known figures for applications are:

Period	*Applications*	*Granted*	*Dismissed*	*Withdrawn*
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	24	18	2	4
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	30	18	1	11
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	36	24	6	4
1 April 2009 to date	3	3		

Notes:
1. In the above period two are ongoing.
2. Statistics prior to 1 April 2006 have not been maintained.

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures his Department has in place to monitor applications from people who are subject to a disqualification order or undertaking for permission to act as a director or take part in the management of a company. [277315]

Mr. McFadden: All such applications must be served on my noble Friend the Secretary of State, as he has a duty to appear on such applications and to call the attention of the court to any matters which seem to be relevant, and may give evidence or call witnesses. Most such applications are dealt with by the Defendant Liaison Team of the Insolvency Service which provides a guidance sheet (approved by Treasury Solicitors) to potential applicants which includes details of the information which my noble Friend the Secretary of State considers should normally be included in an applicant's evidence. Applicants should support their application to the court with full and particularised affidavit evidence which is supported by appropriate exhibits, and serve such evidence on my noble Friend the Secretary of State in sufficient time so as to give him a proper opportunity to consider it fully before the hearing of the application.

The stance taken by my noble Friend the Secretary of State on each application, including whether to file evidence and/or oppose the application, can only be decided having regard to the facts and circumstances of each individual case.

Hotels: Construction

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce measures to provide financial support for the capital costs of building new hotels. [264106]

Ian Pearson: The Real Help for Business measures announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 14 January 2009 are available to all businesses across the UK, with limited exemptions within some measures which apply to specific sectors, largely because there is alternative support already in place or the business is wholly speculative in nature.

Details of all Real Help measures can be accessed at

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp.

Information on finance schemes and an initial assessment of eligibility is available at

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp/finance.

Insolvency

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter on redundancies sent by his Department to insolvency practitioners on 4 March 2009. [273218]

Mr. McFadden: I will place a copy of the letter in the Libraries of the House today.

Insolvency: Sefton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Sefton have entered into administration in the last 12 months. [277735]

Mr. McFadden: There were 5,273 administrations (Enterprise Act 2002) in England and Wales between April 2008 and March 2009. Statistics covering business administrations are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Low Pay Commission: Marketing

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Low Pay Commission has spent on advertising and marketing in each of the last five years. [277475]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The Low Pay Commission has spent nothing on advertising and marketing in the last five years.

Low Pay Commission: Pay

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff of the Low Pay Commission are paid an annual salary of *(a)* less than £15,000, *(b)* between £15,000 and £20,000, *(c)* between £20,000 and £25,000, *(d)* between £25,000 and £30,000, *(e)* between £30,000 and £40,000, *(f)* between £40,000 and £50,000 and *(g)* over £50,000. [277476]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a) None
(b) None
(c) One
(d) Two
(e) Two
(f) One
(g) Three.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the salary of each member of the Low Pay Commission is; and what *(a)* pension and *(b)* expenses arrangements there are for Commission members. [277481]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Low Pay Commissioners do not receive a salary or pension. They are entitled to claim daily attendance fee of £242.12 a day (Commissioner) and £530.96 a day (Chairman), although not all do. In addition, Commissioners can claim reasonable actual travelling, subsistence and incidental costs necessarily incurred in the course of the Commission's business.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 13 November 2008 from the hon. Member for Wycombe concerning his constituents, Houshab and Nitesh Patel of Biofuel Refineries, regarding unfair overseas competition in the biodiesel trade. [275507]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding. The hon. Member will receive a response shortly.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he will reply to the letters of 23 February and 17 April 2009 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, on credit for small leisure business, reference SP2151. [275957]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The Minister for Competitiveness and Small Business responded to the hon. Member on 15 May. I apologise for the delay which was caused by the current high volumes of correspondence.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 6 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. D. Healey. [276508]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to my right hon. Friend for the delay in responding. I will endeavour to respond shortly.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 9 March 2009 concerning his constituent, Mr Allan Jasson, of Chelmsford. [277671]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding. The hon. Member will receive a response shortly.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department plans to respond to the letter of 19 April 2009 from the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes on his constituent, Mr. Robert Bluffield. [277857]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding. The hon. Member will receive a response shortly.

New Businesses

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assistance is available from his Department for a person who wishes to start a business as a sole trader. [263963]

Ian Pearson: Advice for those wishing to start up as sole traders, or in other corporate forms, is available from the Business Link website

www.businesslink.gov.uk

which provides a wide range of advice and support tools for new business start ups.

Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of support provided to social enterprise by regional development agencies. [271425]

Mr. McFadden: The RDAs produce corporate plans setting out corporate objectives and expenditure plans across all major activities including social enterprise. Progress against these plans is subsequently reviewed and reported in the RDA's annual report and accounts. RDAs are also required to undertake impact evaluations of their major projects. That work was recently collected together in a report "Impact of RDA Spending" carried out on the Department's behalf by PriceWaterhouseCoopers which provided an overall assessment of RDAs' effectiveness. The report concluded that RDA expenditure produced economic benefits in all regions.

The Office of the Third Sector's Social Enterprise Action Plan announced £5.9 million for the regional development agencies to March 2011 to improve social enterprise support via Business Link. A formal evaluation of the programme by the Office of the Third Sector has begun, with BERR involvement, and will provide a mechanism to share results across the country, with central Government and with the sector. A draft report on the early stages of the programme is currently being considered by OTS, BERR, the RDAs and a group of social enterprise experts.

Post Offices: Bank Services

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what post office services are operated with the Bank of Ireland. [269075]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). Alan Cook, managing director of POL, wrote directly to the hon. Member on 27 April 2009.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Regional Development Agencies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding streams are provided by each regional development agency. [277362]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Since April 2002, the RDAs have been financed through a Single Programme budget (the "Single Pot"). Money from the seven contributing Departments (BERR, CLG, DIUS, DECC, DEFRA, DCMS and UKTI) is pooled into one single budget.

The funding, once allocated, is available to the RDAs in order to achieve the regional priorities identified in their regional economic strategies (RES) and the challenging targets set by them in their corporate plans. The corporate plans are approved by Ministers. Each region's plan will differ according to the needs, opportunities, and priorities for economic growth in each region.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much funding each regional development agency plans to give to each regional design panel in 2009-10. [270126]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDA proposed funding for regional design panels in 2009-10.

RDA	*Proposed funding for regional design panel in 2009-10 (£000)*
AWM	0
EEDA	100
EMDA	113
LDA	15
NWDA	142
ONE	0
SEEDA	72
SWERDA	0
YF	0

Royal Mail

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether Deutsche Post has informed him of the reasons for which it decided not to seek a stake in the Royal Mail. [274701]

Mr. McFadden: Deutsche Post's decision in relation to a partnership with Royal Mail Group Limited is a matter for them.

Small Businesses: Procurement

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons each of the recommendations in the Glover Review on small and medium-sized enterprises and public procurement cannot be implemented during 2009; and if he will make a statement. [264376]

Ian Pearson: Working with the Office of Government Commerce, this Department expects to implement 10 of the 12 recommendations contained in Anne Glover's report "Accelerating the SME economic engine" before the end of 2009. The two remaining recommendations concern the provision of a free procurement portal recommended by Anne Glover for delivery by 2010. Consideration is currently being given to delivery options which may involve a procurement exercise involving advertising in the "Official Journal of the European Union".

Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have made successful applications for a Small Firms Loans Guarantee; and how much has been guaranteed under the scheme in each year from 2002-03 to 2007-08. [267578]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 March 2009]:* For figures on the value and volume of loans made under SFLG in each of the last five years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1947W, to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan). Figures on the distribution of SFLG lending across all regions of England for financial years 2000-01 to 2006-07 are set out in the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Annual Report to Parliament 2006-07. Copies of the Annual Reports are placed in the Libraries of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [277330]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is in regular consultation with development agencies and other donors on the delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. These include the Government of Afghanistan, the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN World Food Programme (UN-WFP) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan (UNAMA).

DFID monitors closely the effectiveness of the delivery of humanitarian aid through assessments made by agencies who deliver aid on the ground such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UN-WFP.

Cayman Islands: Hurricanes and Tornadoes

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the cost of reconstruction required in the Cayman Islands following Hurricane Paloma. [276809]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) continues to monitor the situation through the Governor's Office and the Cayman Islands hazard management agency.

In April the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean submitted their detailed study of economic damage and losses to the Cayman Islands Government. This indicates that the cost of reconstruction, based on replacement costs for direct damage caused by Hurricane Paloma, to be US$124.5 million, or 7.4 per cent. of gross domestic product. DFID provided support for this study.

On 15 May, the Governor visited Cayman Brac, finding that all critical facilities are functioning, including Government buildings, schools and hospitals. Housing repair is well under way and is a priority.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff employed in London on work contracted out by his Department earn less than £7.45 per hour. [275175]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 26 individuals employed in London on work contracted out by the Department for International Development earn less than £7.45 per hour. We are currently reviewing these contracts.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* senior Civil Service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275251]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 656W.

Departmental White Papers

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress his Department has made towards the publication of its White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [275068]

Mr. Thomas: The forthcoming White Paper on International Development is on track to be laid before Parliament before both Houses rise for the summer recess in July. The consultation period finished on 27 May. Through events, online discussions and written submissions, the consultation received contributions from approximately 3,000 organisations and individuals.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277419]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development was subject to less than five actions under employment law in each of the last three years; no actions were contested at an employment tribunal.

Providing specific information on such a small number of cases could potentially breach the confidentiality of individuals concerned.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of Sri Lankans in camps for the internally displaced; what estimate he has made of the number of such camps hosting such people; and what reports he has received on the access of UN officials to such camps. [277230]

Mr. Michael Foster: The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the camps is growing rapidly as thousands of civilians leave the conflict zone. The United Nations (UN) has stated that approximately 280,000 people have now been security screened and registered. IDPs are currently accommodated in 41 sites situated in Vavuniya, Jaffna and Trincomalee. The UN has generally had better access to the camps than NGOs, particularly in Jaffna.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Public Libraries

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that there is a comprehensive and efficient library service in *(a)* Wirral and *(b)* England. [277692]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities have a duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a "comprehensive and efficient" library service. On 3 April 2009, the Secretary of State announced his intention to use his powers under the Act to hold an inquiry to test whether the Wirral MBC's plans for its library service, arising from its strategic asset review, are consistent with its statutory duties. If the council is found to have fallen short of these duties, the inquiry will recommend the actions necessary to rectify that breach. The inquiry has now been launched and will report in due course.

In considering the findings of both the Wirral inquiry and the DCMS Library Service Modernisation (which will determine the Government's vision for a modern, world-class public library service and set out some of the necessary steps to support all local authorities in providing continuously improving, excellent library services) the Secretary of State will consider what further guidance is needed by local authorities on the interpretation of "comprehensive and efficient".

Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1217-8W, on tourism, what estimates have been made for 2008-09; and how much funding each Department provided under each heading in each year. [277479]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 1 May 2009]*: The following table gives details of Government spending on tourism for 2008-09:

	£ million
VisitBritain funded by DCMS	[1]49.9
Additional emergency funding	0
Regional development agencies (RDA), through the RDA Single Pot[2] administered by DBERR	[3]n/a
Additional DCMS funding for London through Greater London Authority (GLA)	1.9

[1] Resource and Capital grant in aid combined, plus additional £2 million relocation costs.
[2] DCMS contribution £3.5 million.
[3] RDA figures not yet available—still to be audited.

The funding received by the British Tourist Authority and its successor VisitBritain came from DCMS, and the RDA funding from the RDA Single Pot administered by BERR, including a £3.5 million contribution from DCMS (which was £3.6 million in the years up to 2007-08). The funding for the GLA also came from DCMS. The £19 million emergency funding for the "Million Visitor Campaign" in 2001-02 was provided by HMT.

OLYMPICS

CLM

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much CLM has been paid since its appointment as an Olympic contractor; and how much it is expected to be paid over the duration of the contract. [277457]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has engaged the Delivery Partner, CLM, to provide world class programme and project management expertise across the ODA's programme.

Details of payments to CLM are published annually in the ODA annual report and accounts. For the last two years the figures were:

	£ million
2006-07	18.1
2007-08	87.6

The next ODA annual report is due to be published in July 2009 and will include the Delivery Partner payment for the financial year 2008-09.

The overall amount expected to be paid to CLM is commercially confidential and will vary depending on a number of factors including performance and scope of work undertaken.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Manpower

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people have been employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority in each year since 2005; and how many have been engaged by the Authority on consultancy contracts in each such year. [277272]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 1 June 2009]*: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) was established as an NDPB by the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act, which received Royal Assent in March 2006. The following figures cover the position at the end of each financial year. The increase in the number of employees is related to the increase in the pace of the construction programme:

Employees (permanent and fixed term appointments)

	Employees
31 March 2007	112
31 March 2008	182
31 March 2009	225

Non-permanent members of staff (consultants/interims)

	Employees
31 March 2007	23
31 March 2008	56
31 March 2009	129

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many organisations at *(a)* national, *(b)* regional and *(c)* local level are receiving Olympic legacy funding; and how much has been disbursed at each level in the latest period for which figures are available. [277477]

Tessa Jowell: The Legacy Trust UK (LTUK) was established to support a wide range of innovative cultural and sporting projects, which celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and leave a lasting legacy in communities throughout the United Kingdom. The trust was established using a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund, Arts Council England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Since its inception LTUK has awarded a total of £30 million in grants. £6 million has been committed for the staging of the UK School Games, which are run by the Youth Sports Trust, between 2008 and 2011.

Some £24 million has been committed to 12 nations' and regions' organisations to run various cultural projects as follows:

Nation/region	*£ million*
North West	3.02
North East	1.53
Yorkshire and Humber	2.24
West Midlands	2.2
East Midlands	1.61
East of England	1.51
South West	1.61
South East	1.923
London	2.89
Wales	1.67
Scotland	2.57
Northern Ireland	1.31
Total	24.083

For a nation or region to receive a grant from LTUK, strict funding criteria have been applied, including a requirement to set up an advisory group, made up of a range of sporting and cultural organisations, which is responsible for the managing and distribution of the money within that region.

The LTUK is currently finalising their plans for the remaining funds to support three more national initiatives, with announcements expected shortly.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what grants have been made from the £2.7 billion Olympic contingency fund; and of those which have been allocated to the *(a)* programme and *(b)* funded stream. [277516]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Of the total £2.7 billion contingency, £238 million is for wider policing and security and is controlled by the Home Office. £500 million was allocated to the ODA as part of its baseline budget, as announced in December 2007.

The remaining £1.9 billion is split between funders and programme contingency. Contingency releases to the ODA are reported in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Reports and Quarterly Economic Reports, the first of which was published on 13 May 2009, and are summarised as follows:

		Contingency (£ million)	
		Funders	*Programme*
September 2008	Various—balance of funding gap after savings	—	21.5
November 2008	Olympic Stadium (primary strengthening)	—	8.2
	Handball arena (acoustics & HD lighting)	—	2.3
December 2008	Handball area (capacity)	2.4	—
	Olympic stadium (blast hardening)	0.7	—
January 2009	Olympic Village and IBC/MPC	394.0	67.0
	VAT reduction & inflation savings	(101.0)	—
February 2009	Stratford City/Olympic Village infrastructure	—	111.0
May 2009	Olympic Village	150.0	111.0
	Total released	446.2	237.7
	Balance remaining	557.8	730.3

The quarterly economic update published in May 2009 reported that an additional £324 million had been invested in the Olympic Village. This was made up of £261 million contingency shown above together with £63 million of savings achieved from across the ODA programme. It is expected that the whole £324 million will be recovered from future apartment sales.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file FPS 15/17 Unborn Children (Protection) Bill—(Mr. Enoch Powell); and if he will make a statement; [266969]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each document in his Department's file *(a)* FPS 15/17 Parliamentary Proceedings—Mr. Enoch Powell, *(b)* FPS 15/17 Unborn Children (Protection) Bill: Mr. Burt and *(c)* FPS 15/17 Unborn Children (Protection) Bill—Duke of Norfolk; and if he will make a statement. [270465]

Dawn Primarolo: Copies of the files have been placed in the Library. Where documents have been withheld, the reason is stated within the copy of each volume.

Eyesight: Testing

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practising optometrists have been trained to identify *(a)* low vision conditions and *(b)* early stage vision deterioration. [277898]

Ann Keen: As part of their training and professional qualifying examinations, all optometrists are expected to be able to identify the signs of conditions which could give rise to vision loss and might be amenable to remediation, and the early stages of vision deterioration.

Healthcare Commission: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints the Healthcare Commission has *(a)* received and *(b)* resolved in each year since its inception; what the average cost of processing such complaints has been to date; how many staff were employed by the Commission to handle complaints in each year; and what expenditure the Commission incurred on complaints handling in each such year. [277042]

Ann Keen: The Care Quality Commission took over from the Healthcare Commission on 1 April 2009. At the same time, the previous three-stage national health service complaints procedure (local resolution, Healthcare Commission, health service ombudsman) was replaced by a two-stage process (local resolution, health service ombudsman). The Healthcare Commission's complaints handling functions (including information and staffing) have therefore not been transferred to CQC.

The number of complaints received and reviewed up to 31 July 2008 is available from the Healthcare Commission's three reports "Spotlight on Complaints—A report on second-stage complaints about the NHS in England" published in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

> From July 2004 to July 2006—16,130 requests for review were received. In the same period, 10,950 reviews were completed.
>
> From August 2006 to July 2007—7,500 requests for review were received. In the same period, 10,366 reviews were completed.
>
> From August 2007 to 31 July 2008—7,827 requests for review were received. In the same period, 8,949 reviews were completed.

In the 2007 Spotlight on Complaints report the Healthcare Commission published figures on staffing related to the period July 2004 to July 2006. During this time the number of staff dealing with cases increased from 21 to more than 150.

According to the Healthcare Commission annual report and accounts 2007-08, the net operating cost of the Commission's complaints handling function in 2007-08 was £9.6 million, compared to £9.8 million in 2006-07. However, given that the handling and resolution of complaints also draws on resources from elsewhere in the Commission, it is not possible to calculate accurately the full average cost of handling each complaint.

Mental Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he made of the number of empty beds in *(a)* low, *(b)* medium and *(c)* high security mental health hospitals on each day in the last 12 months. [277818]

Phil Hope: These data are not collected centrally to this level of detail.

Data are collected by the Department on the average daily bed occupancy level in all low, medium and high secure units in a given year. In 2007-08, the average daily number of available beds in all secure units in England was 3,159, with an average daily occupancy rate of 2,885 beds or 91.3 per cent.

Snapshot data were collected on 30 September 2008, but only in respect of high secure services, when 879 beds were available, with an overall occupancy rate of 90.4 per cent. The data include 48 designated learning disability beds. Separate data for low secure and medium secure units' bed occupancy levels have not been collected by the Department.

NHS: Standards

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on England's position among Western European states for *(a)* prevalence of and *(b)* treatment standards for (i) heart, (ii) kidney disease and *(c)* stroke; and what plans he has to improve this ranking over the next 10 years. [276976]

Ann Keen: Data from the 2006 Health Survey for England suggest the prevalence of coronary heart disease (CHD) in England was 6.5 per cent. in men and 4.0 per cent. in women. Prevalence rates increase with age, with more than one in three men and around one in four women aged 75 and over living with CHD.

Overall we estimate that there are just over 1.1 million men living in the United Kingdom who have had angina and around 970,000 who have had a heart attack and around 850,000 women who have had angina and around 439,000 who have had a heart attack. Combined, these estimates suggest that 2.1 million men and 1.3 million women, around 3.4 million adults, in the UK reporting angina and/or a heart attack. This is likely to be an overestimate as those suffering from angina are not an independent group to those suffering from a heart attack.

Comparable data on prevalence of the cardiovascular diseases are difficult to access. At present there is no routinely updated source of Europe-wide data.

With regards to plans for tackling heart disease, the Department is commissioning an external review of the implementation and delivery of the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework. We are also undertaking an analysis of the trends in the burden of cardiac disease including patient expectations and needs, technology and working practices and how these are likely to affect future demand and patterns of service provision.

We understand that a report on Access to Cardiac Care in the UK commissioned by the Cardio and Vascular Coalition, the British Heart Foundation and the British Cardiovascular Society was launched on 2 June 2009, which includes some comparison with other European countries. This will be a helpful contribution to our work on future needs.

The Department contributed information to the Euro Consumer Heart Index in 2008, which provides comparisons between European countries across a number of indicators including access to treatment, prevention, national guidelines and outcomes. In this index, the UK ranked 9 out of 29 European countries. No separate score was available for England.

The number of people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) is not accurately known, because a lack of symptoms in the early stages means it often remains undiagnosed. However, a survey of blood samples in South East England in 2000-01 indicated the prevalence of CKD to be 5,554 per million population. Also the introduction of CKD into the Quality and Outcomes Framework has determined that there are 1.5 million people with CKD stages 3-5 (5 being established as renal failure).

Part 1 of the National Service Framework for Renal Services, published in January 2004, sets five standards and identifies 30 markers of good practice in the areas of dialysis and transplantation, aimed at improving fairness of access, patient choice about the type of treatment they receive and reducing variation in the quality of dialysis and kidney transplant services. These standards and markers of good practice will help the national health service and its partners to manage the increasing demand for renal services.

Future plans for renal services are to identify people at risk of kidney disease in a timely manner to optimise care, ensure kidney patients receive high quality care and to offer patients a choice of all forms of replacement therapy.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death and the leading cause of adult disability in England, with over 110,000 strokes happening every year.

The National Stroke Strategy for England (December 2007) sets 20 'quality markers' which outline the features of a good service in the assessment and treatment of strokes, and those support services needed for stroke survivors to return to as full as possible a life in their community.

The National Stroke Strategy was launched on 5 December 2007 following extensive consultation. It provides a 10-year framework setting out key elements of an improved stroke service. At the launch of the strategy, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson) announced £105 million of central funding over three years would be spent to support implementation.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of inequalities in the *(a)* prevalence and *(b)* treatment of (i) cardiac and (ii) vascular diseases between (A) the sexes, (B) geographical areas, (C) social groups, (D) economic groups and (E) ethnic groups; and what projects (1) are in place and (2) are planned to reduce such inequalities over the next decade. [276977]

Ann Keen: The Government have made tackling health inequalities a top priority, and have set a challenging target to reduce inequalities in infant mortality and life expectancy. The most comprehensive programme ever in this country is in place to address them. This draws on a wide range of data and analysis, some carried out within the Department and the national health service and some carried out by academic units.

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) account for about a third of the gap in life expectancy and a range of programmes are reducing deaths and closing the inequalities gap.

In 1999 a target to reduce the mortality rate from CVD (coronary heart disease (CHD), stroke and related diseases) by at least 40 per cent. in people under 75 by 2010 was established. This has been the subject of annual monitoring. Data from 2004-06 indicate that this target was met five years early and the mortality rate has now fallen by 44 per cent. when compared to the 1995-97 baseline. The gap in death rates from CVD between the most health-deprived areas and the national average has narrowed by 36 per cent. over the same period, and we are on track to deliver the 2010 target of at least a 40 per cent. reduction in the gap.

With regard to cardiac disease, a major assessment of the burden of CHD informed the development of the Coronary Heart Disease National Service Framework (CHD NSF) published in March 2000. The findings of this assessment are included in the first chapter of the NSF 'Modern Standards and Service Models'. A copy has already been placed in the Library and is available online at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4094275

A key project to address the inequalities recognised in the NSF has been a major investment programme of £735 million in facilities and equipment aimed at improving and increasing access for appropriate cardiac interventions. Full details are available in the 2007 CHD NSF progress report, *'Building for the Future'*. A copy has been placed in the Library and is available online at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083060

Progress on the standards in the CHD NSF has been monitored annually including the impact on inequalities.

The Department developed a National Service Framework for Diabetes in 2003 and a National Service Framework for Renal Services in 2004. In 2007, the National Stroke Strategy was published. The implementation plans for all three include a strong focus on tackling inequalities.

A range of other initiatives to tackle inequalities is being taken forward. For example, the Department has commissioned the Improvement Foundation to work in the 20 areas with the worst health status to improve the identification and treatment of people at risk of cardiovascular disease:

www.improvementfoundation.org/theme/reducing-health-inequalities

In addition to this the primary care trusts (PCTs) in the most deprived areas are working with the National Health Inequalities Support Team. Using the Health Inequalities Intervention Tool they are being supported in priority setting (including prioritising vascular conditions), planning and commissioning of services.

On the prevention front, from April 2009, the NHS has been asked to start implementing a systematic and integrated vascular risk assessment and management programme—the NHS Health Check programme. This will provide a mechanism to identify earlier people who are at risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease and support them to reduce their risk through the provision of lifestyle advice and interventions, and preventative medication, for example statins. Before the implementation of this programme, the Department undertook an Equality Impact Assessment. This assessment used existing evidence that gave details of inequalities in the prevalence of vascular disease of both genders, people of transgender, by age, sexual orientation, geographical regions, socio-economic groups, ethnic groups and disability. The programme has significant potential to narrow inequalities and many PCTs are using it as a major tool in tackling health inequalities.

The Department is also funding a number of third sector projects to deliver work focused on particular minority communities. These include nine stroke projects including the Stroke Association's 'Blood Pressure Awareness—African Caribbean and South Asian Communities', Connect's 'Provision of training and support for people with Aphasia' and the Afiya Trust's 'Stroke Awareness for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities'. For renal services, the Department is funding a project managed by the Black Organ Donor Association that will promote awareness of the need for organ donation in black and minority ethnic communities.

With regard to longer term plans, the Department is commissioning an external review of the implementation and delivery of the CHD NSF. In addition to this, we will undertake an analysis of the trends in the burden of cardiac disease and look at how patient expectation and need, technology and working practices are likely to affect future demand and patterns of service provision.

We will also continue to develop our cross-vascular work programme. We will feed our findings to the Department's National Quality Board, which has been set up to oversee the priorities for the service in the future.

Vulnerable Adults: Protection

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who *(a)* monitors and *(b)* investigates complaints made against adult protection multi-agency committees set up in accordance with his Department's "No Secrets" guidance, LAC (2000)7. [277868]

Phil Hope: Adult protection committees (APCs) are the partnership bodies that develop multi-agency procedures for staff in partner agencies, including local authorities, the national health service and police, to follow when responding to allegations of abuse against vulnerable adults. APCs are also known as Safeguarding Adults Boards or Partnerships.

"No Secrets" does not prescribe arrangements for managing complaints about APCs. However, it would be good practice for each APC to agree a policy on handling complaints, including how complaints should be monitored and investigated.

APCs are accountable to the individual partner agencies, which should satisfy themselves that complaints are handled in accordance with the agreed policy.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans there are to implement the Afghan Public Protection Programme in Helmand province. [277634]

Bill Rammell: The Government of Afghanistan, with support from the US, are currently piloting the Afghan Public Protection Programme in Wardak province. This scheme empowers individual communities to take a greater role in providing their own security. There are no plans as yet to run a pilot program in Helmand. Only once the pilot has been vigorously evaluated will any decisions on expansion be taken.

Afghanistan: Police

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* size and *(b)* capability of the Afghan National Police. [277635]

Bill Rammell: As of 30 April 2009 the size of the Afghan National Police (ANP) was estimated to be 81,584. The authorised strength (tashkil) of the ANP is 86,800. This includes an increase of 4,800 to bolster security in Kabul in the lead-up to the August elections. The ANP includes the Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP), Border Police (ABP) and Civil Order Police (ANCOP). The capability of the ANP varies across the forces and continues to suffer from major problems including low levels of literacy and high levels of corruption.

The AUP provides basic security and policing and is currently receiving US-led training under the Focused District Development Programme. ANCOP plays a niche but vital role in the counter-insurgency campaign and regularly supports the Afghan national army on operations. It also backfills the AUP during its participation in training. It is judged to be a more effective force compared with the other elements of the ANP. The Afghan Border Police needs more development although it has made some progress in policing Afghanistan's airports, following training.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* private security organisations, *(b)* national armed forces and other official organisations and *(c)* intergovernmental organisations are providing training for the Afghan National Police; how many Afghan National Police officers in each force have received such training from each such organisation; and how many British (i) military and (ii) civilian personnel work in each such organisation. [277711]

Bill Rammell: The major private security organisations providing training for the Afghan National Police (ANP) in Afghanistan are MPRI, Dyncorp and Xe. We do not have an estimate of the total number of private security companies delivering police training in Afghanistan. Nor do we have figures for British personnel in these organisations.

We are unable to provide numbers of armed forces, or civilian personnel, engaged in police training and reform from other countries. The principal country delivering police training is the US. 12 Ministry of Defence Police are delivering police training and reform at the provincial level. There are 24 British armed forces delivering ANP training at the district level, with additional force protection.

The US organisation leading on delivering police training is the Combined Security Transitional Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A). CSTC-A has agreements with Germany, France, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland and the UK. We are unable to give total figures for those delivering training to the ANP. There are three British police officers in CSTC-A engaged on police reform. Seven British military personnel are working in CSTC-A on security sector reform, including policing.

The main organisation delivering police training and reform at the strategic level is the EU Policing mission (EUPOL). At the beginning of May 2009 the EUPOL mission was 326-strong and included police experts from the EU, Canada, Croatia, New Zealand and Norway. We have no breakdown of numbers. We are funding 15 British civilians in EUPOL, but have no figures for additional British staff directly contracted by the EU. There are no UK military in EUPOL.

We do not have a figure for the number of Afghan National Police officers in each force who have received training from each organisation. The US estimated that 20,000 ANP had undergone Focused District Development (FDD) training at the end of 2008. CSTC-A is planning to train a further 34,000 ANP in 2009. On 27 April 2009, over 4,700 ANP were in training.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on proposals to add the judges, court officials and police involved in the recent trial of Aung San Suu Kyi to the list of members of the Burmese regime whose assets within the EU are frozen and who are banned from travel to the EU; and if he will make a statement. [277406]

Bill Rammell: In the event that the Burmese regime continues to ignore international protests about Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest and trial, the EU will need to consider what additional actions it should take in order to bring further pressure to bear. Adding further names to the current list of those covered by the visa ban and asset freeze would be an option for further measures. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the prospect of such measures with his counterparts on 18 May 2009.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which preparatory bodies the General Affairs and External Relations Council has asked to review proposals to reinforce existing restrictive measures on Burma; what role the UK has played in the process; and when the review is expected to be completed. [277408]

Bill Rammell: The Asia-Oceania Working Group (COASI) in Brussels has been charged with reviewing proposals to reinforce the restrictive measures. The UK has also instigated bilateral discussions on options with our partners. There is no set deadline for the completion of the review, but the UK is seeking to ensure that the EU is ready to respond swiftly to developments on the ground.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals for further discussions with Asian countries on Burma have been made at EU level; what steps the UK is taking in this regard; and if he will make a statement. [277409]

Bill Rammell: Members of the EU share the UK's view that our Asian partners have a key role to play in encouraging the process of change in Burma. The EU raises the issue of Burma in its discussions with China, India and other Asian states at every opportunity. I joined Asian and other EU Ministers at the Asia Europe Meeting on 25-26 May 2009 in Hanoi and at the EU-ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Summit on 27-28 May 2009 in Phnom Penh. Burma and the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi were among the issues discussed in detail at that meeting.

Conflict Prevention

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1146W, on conflict prevention, what the original planned total allocation for conflict prevention was for *(a)* South Asia, including Afghanistan, *(b)* Africa, *(c)* Europe and *(d)* the Middle East under the annual tri-departmental review for 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [277340]

Gillian Merron: The original planned total allocation for conflict activity in financial year (FY) 2009-10 was set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement: £109 million for Conflict Prevention, £73 million for Stabilisation and an additional call on the Treasury Reserve for the Peacekeeping Budget (£374 million).

As stated in the previous response, individual country/regional allocations were agreed through an annual tri-departmental (Department for International Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence) review of planned activity across all three funds.

Under the tri-departmental review for 2009-10, the UK's total available conflict resource for FY 2009-10 (leaving aside the cost of UK military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq) was increased to £627 million (from £556 million). The breakdown is as follows:

£456 million has been ring-fenced for assessed peacekeeping. The remaining £171 million will fund all discretionary peacekeeping, conflict prevention and stabilisation. It has been divided in the following ways:

Africa—£43 million
Middle East—£18 million
Wider Europe—£33 million
South Asia—£61.3 million
Strategic Security International Organisations—£6.5 million
Central Reserve—£9.2 million (to act primarily as a buffer against fluctuations in the exchange rate and increases in assessed peacekeeping or other conflict-related costs).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on departmental public expenditure, for what reason the administration allocation for the Baghdad post was reduced from £26,584,327 in 2007-08 to £2,673,946 in 2008-09; what categories of cost are now incurred at the post; and how much staff security at the post cost in the latest period for which figures are available. [276814]

Gillian Merron: Since 1 April 2008 funds for major contracts in Iraq have been managed from London as this is more cost-effective. The funds managed at post are for local running costs.

The total allocations for London and posts in Iraq Directorate for 2007-08 were £39.2 million. In 2008-09 total allocations reduced to £36.1 million. The decrease in allocation was because of the renegotiation of major contracts.

Costs incurred at Baghdad include those for security, transport, medical, catering and other life support costs.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond (Yorks) of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1061W, on departmental public expenditure, for what reason the administration allocation for the Kirkuk post was reduced from £1,390,059 in 2007-08 to nil in 2008-09; for what reason the administration allocation for the new post at Erbil remains at £140,569; what services in Kirkuk have been reduced as a result of the change; and what recent discussions he has had with authorities in the Kurdistan region on the effect of the change on the UK's policy on northern Iraq and the Kurds. [276816]

Gillian Merron: UK-based staff moved from Kirkuk to Erbil in February 2007. One locally engaged staff member remains in Kirkuk, administered from Erbil. All services provided to Kirkuk have ceased.

Since 1 April 2008 funds for major contracts in Iraq have been managed from London as this is more cost-effective. The funds managed at post are for local running costs.

The total allocations for London and posts in Iraq Directorate for financial year (FY) 2007-08 were £39.2 million. In FY 2008-09 total allocations reduced to £36.1 million. The decrease in allocation was because of the renegotiation of major contracts.

The Government attach great value to our relationship with the Kurds both as part of bilateral relationship with Iraq and directly with the Kurdistan Region. Kurdish leaders including Kurdish President Masoud Barzani and Kurdish Prime Minister Nechirvan Barzani have a major role to play in continued stabilisation and security in Iraq and, through dialogue with the federal Government in Baghdad and finding political solutions to the remaining nation-building legislation.

Separately, we continue to strengthen our relationship with the Kurdish Region by helping it to prosper as a stable, democratic and economically viable region through closer ties in education, trade, culture, security sector reform and supporting its efforts to establish better relations with its neighbours such as Turkey.

EC Law

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of domestic legislation which was enacted as a consequence of obligations arising from EU legislation in the latest period for which figures are available. [277764]

Caroline Flint: A House of Commons Library analysis of the effects of EU legislation on British law between 1998 and 2005 gave a figure of 9.1 per cent.

European Commission

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1196W, on the European Union, for which international bodies his Department recognises the European Commission as having an active treaty competence interest. [277115]

Caroline Flint: The European Commission's Treaties Office keeps track of all the treaties to which the European Community is a party. It is publicly available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/default.home.do

Where the European Community is a member of an international organisation the European Commission will attend meetings of the organisation and may speak on matters falling within the European Community's competence.

European Court of Justice

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government spent on legal costs for cases at the European Court of Justice for 2008. [277094]

Gillian Merron: For the financial year 2008-09, in relation to cases before the European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, the Government spent £514,111.00 on counsel's fees. This figure does not include a limited number of outstanding fees relating to work undertaken in 2008-09 for which the Government have not yet been invoiced.

European Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the estimated marginal cost to the UK Permanent Representation to the EU was of European Parliament plenaries taking place in Strasbourg in the last 12 months. [277080]

Caroline Flint: The estimated marginal cost of Strasbourg plenary sessions to the UK Permanent Representation to the EU for the past 12 months was around €65,000. The UK Permanent Representation, on behalf of the Government, engages regularly with the European Parliament, including the Strasbourg plenary sessions, in order to achieve the best outcome for the UK.

Gambia: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next dialogue meeting between the Government of the Gambia and the EU will be held; and whether he plans to raise the case of David and Fiona Fulton at that meeting. [275465]

Gillian Merron: The next EU-Gambia meeting is scheduled for 10 June 2009. This meeting will not provide an opportunity for our high commissioner to raise the Fultons' case as he will be acting as the sole representative of the EU presidency on EU-Gambia matters. Consular staff continue to monitor the Fultons' case and make regular visits. Our high commissioner will make representations directly to the Gambian authorities where appropriate.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 172W, on Iran: sanctions, what his policy is on the length of time Iran will be given to respond in a positive way before further steps are taken. [277228]

David Miliband: Following a meeting of officials from the E3+3 on 8 April 2009, EU High Representative Javier Solana contacted Iranian nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili to invite Iran to meet with the E3+3.

Iran has yet to respond to the E3+3's invitation. While we remain committed to engagement, we are also clear that the window of opportunity for Iran to take positive steps is not open-ended.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 2 April 2009, transferred from the Department for International Development on 9 April, on Hakamada Iwao. [276553]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 20 May 2009]:* This letter was replied to on 20 May 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on levels of smuggling into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [277208]

David Miliband: There are two types of smuggling into Gaza. The majority of smuggling is for commercial goods, including fuel. We believe that this continues to be a major part of the Gazan economy, primarily because of the continuing Israeli restrictions at the commercial crossings into the strip. The UK continues to call on the Israeli Government to reduce restrictions at the Gaza crossings on trade goods, reconstruction materials, and aid, as well as flows of people. The second type of smuggling is arms smuggling. We believe that recent actions have disrupted this to some extent but that it does continue. UK officials will attend a meeting in Ottawa in June 2009 (following earlier meetings in Copenhagen and London) to address further measures to prevent arms smuggling into Gaza.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on attempts by Hamas to re-arm in the Gaza Strip; and if he will make a statement. [277209]

David Miliband: We are deeply concerned by reports of continued sporadic rocket attacks from Gaza aimed at Israel and call on the attacks to cease immediately. The UK continues to urge Hamas to renounce violence and condemns attempts to smuggle weapons and ammunition into Gaza.

The UK continues to work with international partners against the smuggling of arms into Gaza. UK officials will attend a meeting in Ottawa in June 2009 (following earlier meetings in Copenhagen and London), to address further measures to prevent arms smuggling.

Pakistan: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on *(a)* recent activity in Pakistan's nuclear programme and *(b)* construction of facilities at (i) the Dera Ghazi Khan nuclear site and (ii) the Institute of Science and Technology; and what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on Pakistan's nuclear programme. [277210]

David Miliband: Recent reports on Pakistan's nuclear programme indicate that Pakistan is continuing to expand its nuclear weapons capabilities both in terms of warheads and their delivery systems. Dera Ghazi Khan nuclear site and the Institute of Science and Technology are both involved in Pakistan's nuclear programme. I regularly discuss this and a range of other issues with my Pakistani counterpart, most recently on 26 May 2009.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1071W, on peacekeeping operations, how many UK civilian secondees there have been to each conflict prevention and peacekeeping operation in each country in 2008-09; and what the role of each was. [277229]

David Miliband: The information is as follows:

FY 2008-09

	Number
Total police deployed	157
Total civilians deployed	74
Total overall deployed	231

Mission	*Number of secondees deployed to mission throughout FY08-09*	*Roles undertaken by UK secondees*
EUPol Afghanistan	12 police	Deputy Head of Mission
		CID Adviser
		Mentor State Office of Criminal Investigation
		Mentor at Central Level
		Training Adviser
		Mentor Criminal Investigation Department MoI
		Head of Kabul City Police Project Team
		Head of Mentors
		Operations Support Officer
		Mentor Deputy Minister of Interior
	1 civilian	Mentor of Attorney General's Office
Combined Strategy Transition Command - Afghanistan	3 police (2 for 1 role)	Senior Adviser on Afghan Police Development to the Commanding General
		National Police Development Manager
EUPM Bosnia	14 police + 1 civilian	Chief Adviser to SIPA
		Human Resource Management Adviser
		Crime Adviser, Regional Office
		SIPA Adviser

Mission	*Number of secondees deployed to mission throughout FY08-09*	*Roles undertaken by UK secondees*
		Chief Adviser to Regional Office
		Anti-Organised Crime Adviser
		Crime Adviser to SIPA
		Anti-Organised Crime Unit Co-ordinator
		SIPA Adviser, HQ
		Border Police Adviser
		Adviser to Regional Office
		Adviser to Field Office
		Operational Adviser SIPA
		Senior Immigration Adviser
		Chief of the Anti-Organised Crime Department
EUPol COPPS Palestine	4 police (2 for 1 role)	Projects Officer
		Mission Security Officer
		Staff & Liaison Officer
CPCC Brussels	2 police	CPCC Police Export
		DGE IX - External Relations
	1 civilian	Logistics Expert
CivPol Iraq	25 police	UK Chief Police Adviser - Iraq
		Team Support Manager
		SPA Tactical
		MND(SE) Liaison - ISF Branch
		Internal Affairs
		Leadership Department
		Higher Institute Development
		CPATT-Dep.Dir.Trg. Standards
		MOI / CPATT Strategic Policing Adviser
		RoI - Investigator
		Training Adviser
		MOI / HWG Strategic Policing Adviser
		Strategic Planning Adviser
EU JUSTLEX Brussels	4 civilians	Chief of Staff
		Course Co-ordinator Penitentiary
		Police Course Co-ordinator
		Mission Security Officer
EULEX Kosovo	83 police	Intelligence Unit Officer
		Intelligence Unit Officer
		Intelligence Unit Officer
		Chief Adviser to KPS admin
		Shift Leader Monitor
		D/Director Special Ops
		Chief SPU Ops Planning
		Oversight Investigations
		Witness Protection
		Commander CPU
		Station Commander Liaison Officer(SCLO)
		Surveillance
		Director of Crime
		Regional Ops
		Shift Leader Monitor
		FIC Analyst
		Adviser to Head of KPS Mandatory Training
		Chief of CTU
		Intelligence unit officer
		Border, Gate 31
		Head of CIU
		Ops Planning
		Intelligence unit officer
		Gate 31 Monitor
		Staff Officer to Police Commissioner
		Team Leader Organised Crime (IPU)
		DPC,KPS Admin
		Exec Officer, Operations
		Head of Intelligence IPU
		Enhancement Force
		Gate Cdr Gate 31
		Counter Terrorist Unit
		Deputy Reg Cdr/Investigations Monitor.
		TUM Mitro Regional Traffic Unit
		War Crimes Investigator
		Deputy head of CIU
		Gate 31 Monitor
		Adviser to support and service selection/ Dir org crime
		War Crimes Investigator
		Analyst CIU
		Intelligence Analyst
		Adviser to KPS OPS- Station
		Adviser to interethnic crime investigations
		Chief police station Adviser
		Surveillance investigations officer
		Shift Leader gates 1/31
		Station Police officer
		Adviser to KPS ROSU
		Adviser to the KPS Regional Admin and support
		Chief Adviser to KPS admin
		Adviser to the KPS chief of staff
		Adviser to KPS OPS- station
		Co-ordination officer(Investigation/intelligence/general policing)
		Adviser to Operational planning unit

Mission	*Number of secondees deployed to mission throughout FY08-09*	*Roles undertaken by UK secondees*
		Adviser to investigations-Border police
		Adviser to KPS regional chief of admin and support
		Adviser to police investigations-mobile patrol-station
		Adviser to KPS ops dept station
		Adviser to inter-ethnic crime investigations
		Adviser to Ops dept station
		Public order officer
		Station Police officer
		Surveillance investigations officer
		Adviser to KPS Ops
		Investigator of the FIU
		Adviser to KPS K9 unit
		Intelligence officer, SLU, OIC
		Border monitor gate 1 and 31
		Station Police officer
		Community policing Adviser
		Adviser to KPS OPS dept Stn
		OCI analyst
		Investigator to FIU
		WSU safe place Dep team leader
		Adviser to regional crime squad
		Station Police officer
		Adviser to immigration unit Pristina airport
		Station Police officer
		Station Police officer
		OIC desk officer/ office manager
		Adviser to KPS Ops station
		Station Police officer
		WSU safe place security officer
	18 civilians	Deputy Chief Programme Manager
		Senior Security Information Analyst
		Deputy Head of EULEX Mission
		Anti-Corruption Expert
		Chief Reporting Officer
		Policy Officer
		Legal Adviser
		Public Outreach Officer
		Legal Officer - District Court
		Police Liaison Officer (based in Brussels)
		Court Recorder
		Court Recorder
		Criminal Judge, District Court Level
		Programme Manager
		Customs Law Enforcement Adviser
		Court Recorder
		Secretary to the Head of Mission
		Prosecutor
ICO KOSOVO	3 civilians	Head of the Press and Public Information Unit/Director of Communications
		Field Presence Co-ordinator
		Head of the ICO Presence in Mitrovica
EUPT KOSOVO	1 civilian	Political Adviser
EUSR KOSOVO - based in Brussels	1 civilian	EU Co-ordinator/Political Adviser to the European Union Special Representative
UNAMID SUDAN	3 police	Training co-ordinator
		Policing Adviser
		Training Adviser
SUDAN AMIS	1 civilian	UN Military Observer
EUMM Georgia	10 police	Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
	12 civilians	Chief of Security
		Chief Press and Media
		Deputy Head Operations/ Military Adviser
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
		Monitor
EUBAM RAFAH	1 police	Deputy Chief of operations
	1 civilian	Reporting and Analysis Officer
EUSEC DRCongo	1 civilian	Head of Admin and Logistic Cell
EUBAM MOLDOVA	2 civilian	Deputy Head of Field Office
		Border Guard Officer

Mission	*Number of secondees deployed to mission throughout FY08-09*	*Roles undertaken by UK secondees*
EU South Caucasus based in Brussels	1 civilian	Political Adviser
OSCE Bosnia	2 civilians	Senior Adviser, Education Director of Democratisation
OSCE Austria	1 civilian	Senior Border Adviser
OSCE Serbia	3 civilians	Municipal Coordinator, Pol Affairs Community Policing Adviser Head of Strategic Development
OSCE Macedonia	5 civilians	Head of Media Development Field Station Coordinator, Tetevo Head of Public Admin Reform Police Training Head of Police Development
OSCE Kosovo	2 civilians	Public Safety Trainer (Police) Head of OSCE Field Office
OSCE Albania	4 civilians	Deputy Head of Presence Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer Political Officer Field Station Officer
OSCE Georgia	3 civilians	Spokesperson Press & Public Affairs Project Co-ordinator Senior Military Adviser
OSCE Nagorno Karabakh	1 civilian	Field Assistant
OSCE Warsaw	2 civilians	Legal Adviser Rule of Law Officer
OSCE Moldova	1 civilian	Political-Military Officer
OSCE Tajikistan	1 civilian	Field Office, Kulyab
OSCE Kyrgyzstan	1 civilian	Head of Mission

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of people *(a)* killed and *(b)* wounded during the recent conflict in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [277205]

David Miliband: Given the lack of independent monitoring from the conflict area, we have been unable to verify the conflicting reports of the numbers of people killed and injured in the recent fighting in Sri Lanka. We endorse the EU's call for an independent inquiry into alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and for those accountable to be brought to justice. We believe this could play an important role in the post-conflict reconciliation process. I refer the right hon. Member to my latest written ministerial statement on Sri Lanka on 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 73WS.

St. Helena: Wind Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 560W, on British Overseas Territories: electricity generation, what percentage of St. Helena's electricity requirements is generated through the wind power programme. [276789]

Gillian Merron: The wind power programme on St. Helena is the responsibility of St. Helena Government. I understand that in April 2009, 3-4 per cent. of the total energy consumption was being generated through that programme. There are plans in place to increase this percentage by the end of the year.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Sudan. [277432]

Gillian Merron: The human rights situation in Sudan is of grave and ongoing concern. Arbitrary arrests and detention, sexual violence against women, large-scale recruitment and use of children in armed forces and general impunity for such violations, together with restrictions that unduly limit the freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of movement, are our most serious concerns.

The civilian population is suffering gravely from the protracted conflict in Darfur. The recent expulsion of international humanitarian aid workers exacerbates the already precarious situation for civilians.

The serious human rights situation on the ground warrants maintained international human rights focus on Sudan, in particular as the country is preparing for national elections to be held next year, as part of the crucial implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Tibet

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when officials from the British Embassy in Beijing next plan to visit Tibet. [277858]

Bill Rammell: Officials from our embassy in Beijing were able to visit the Tibet Autonomous Region in May 2009. They met representatives of the regional government, Lhasa Municipal government, the Regional People's Congress, and representatives of non-governmental organisations working there. They were also able to observe daily life and visit a monastery to assess the situation there. I intend to visit Tibet shortly.

Treaty of Rome

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the EU budget was of events marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome; what such events took place in the UK; and at what cost. [277184]

Caroline Flint: This information is not held by the Government. Requests for this information should be made to the UK Representations of the European Commission and the European Parliament.

On events in the UK, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman on 19 April 2007, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA91, which provided information on the Government's activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Criminal Justice and Policing

4. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in the devolution of responsibility for criminal justice and policing to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [277586]

Mr. Woodward: Good progress continues to be made to implement the route map set out by the First and Deputy First Ministers in November 2008. With the Northern Ireland Act 2009 on the statute book, we have put the necessary framework in place to enable the Assembly to complete that process.

Fuel Smuggling

5. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effect on the local economy of fuel smuggling in Northern Ireland. [277587]

Paul Goggins: Fuel fraud, like all other forms of criminal activity, has an adverse impact on the economy. Dealing with this issue remains a priority for me and all members of the Organised Crime Task Force.

In the past year over 800,000 litres of illegal fuel have been seized.

Saville Inquiry

6. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects Lord Saville to report the conclusions of his inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [277588]

Mr. Woodward: Lord Saville wrote to me in January stating that it is still his intention to submit his report to me in the autumn of this year. I have had no indication from Lord Saville that there will be any further delays.

Northern Ireland Executive: Funding

7. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Prime Minister on mechanisms for central Government funding for the Northern Ireland Executive. [277589]

Mr. Woodward: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on a wide range of issues. This Government believe that the current arrangements deliver stable and transparent settlements which permit the Northern Ireland Executive to direct spending towards local priorities and needs.

Police Detection Rates

8. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on police detection rates. [277590]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable reports to the Northern Ireland Policing Board directly on clearance rates. The Police Service of Northern Ireland is committed to improving clearance rates through intelligence-led community policing. The clearance rate in Northern Ireland for 2008-09 was 23 per cent., an increase of 2.5 percentage points on the previous year.

Dissident Republicans

9. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of activity of dissident republicans in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [277591]

13. **Mr. Blunt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of activity of dissident republicans in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [277595]

14. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of activity of dissident republicans in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [277596]

Mr. Woodward: The 21st IMC Report indicated that dissident republicans remain active and dangerous. Their objective is to destroy the peace process and drag Northern Ireland back to the past. It is the clear will of the people of Northern Ireland that they will not be allowed to succeed.

Press Freedom

10. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of press freedom in Northern Ireland. [277592]

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of levels of press freedom in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [277597]

Paul Goggins: A free and independent press is one of the cornerstones of democracy in Northern Ireland as it is throughout the United Kingdom.

Terrorism

11. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to protect members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland from terrorist attacks. [277593]

Paul Goggins: The Chief Constable and I take extremely seriously the threat to police officers. A range of measures are in place to enhance the personal security of officers and they are kept under review.

Political Institutions

12. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of progress in the development of political institutions in Northern Ireland since the date of the St. Andrews agreement. [277594]

Mr. Woodward: Last month saw the second anniversary of the restoration of devolution. In that time the political institutions in Northern Ireland have continued to develop and make remarkable progress as its politicians demonstrate their commitment to making the institutions work in the best interests of all the people of Northern Ireland.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what provision his Department has made for interpretation services for foreign national prisoners in 2008 and 2009 to date; and with reference to the answer of 10 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 765W, on prisoners: foreigners, what expenditure his Department has incurred on the provision of such services in each month since January 2008. [277318]

Paul Goggins: In November 2007, the Northern Ireland Prison Service awarded contracts for face-to-face interpreting and written translation for foreign national prisoners. A telephone interpreting service is also available.

The following table shows the expenditure on language services in each month since January 2008:

£

	Written translation	*Face-to-face interpreting*	*Telephone interpreting*	*Total*
2008				
January	2,488.30	—	—	2,488.30
February	—	—	—	—
March	3,872.90	—	10.58	3,883.48
April	9,222.41	—	—	9,222.41
May	4,455.50	931.82	—	5,387.32
June	6,438.25	—	—	6,438.25
July	247.22	1,052.72	—	1,299.94
August	1,781.08	—	—	1,781.08
September	2,977.81	992.74	—	3,970.55
October	661.98	3,207.77	—	3,869.75
November	6,671.79	4,813.91	—	11,485.70
December	330.00	5,279.14	—	5,609.14
2009				
January	250.00	—	373.64	623.64
February	—	2,173.31	695.18	2,868.49
March	196.35	80.38	500.25	776.98
April	3,636.68	—	683.10	4,319.78
May	—	9,141.06	622.73	9,763.79
Total	43,230.27	27,672.85	2,885.48	73,788.60

State Visits: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each visit to Northern Ireland by the President of the Irish Republic in each of the last three years. [276771]

Paul Goggins: As with all VIP visits, the cost to the public purse has not been calculated. To supply such figures could be done only at disproportionate cost.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what implications there are for his Department of proposed changes under Council Framework Decision 2009/299/JHA to trial absences before the issue of a European arrest warrant. [277090]

Maria Eagle: The UK welcomes this framework decision, since it will ensure that there is consistency and clarity throughout Europe regarding the circumstances in which a European arrest warrant should be executed, where the person has been tried in their absence. It will not require us to change our law regarding when a trial may proceed in a person's absence. In operational terms, when it has come into force we will need to ensure that our authorities are using the revised European arrest warrant form. This will be picked up in the implementation phase of the framework decision when this Department will work alongside colleagues in the Home Office and others, including the judiciary and devolved Administrations on detailed aspects of implementation.

I do not believe that the Council framework decision on trials in absentia will have significant implications for my Department. It will ensure that our authorities can be satisfied that a person is only being sent back to another MS following a trial in their absence in appropriate circumstances.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: Billericay

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans ClearSprings Management Ltd has to operate a Bail Accommodation and Support Service property in Billericay constituency. [274605]

Mr. Hanson: The East of England Director of Offender Management has identified a need for a further three bed spaces for this service in Essex to allow defendants and offenders on Home Detention Curfew requiring accommodation in Essex to return to their home area. Should ClearSprings acquire a property for this service in the hon. Member's constituency of Billericay I will write and advise him.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on artwork since November 2008. [276476]

Mr. Straw: Since November 2008 there has been no expenditure on artwork incurred by the Ministry of Justice HQ, the Office of the Public Guardian, or the National Offender Management Service.

Artwork expenditure is not a separately identifiable category for HM Courts Service and the Tribunals Service. However, neither agency has commissioned any new artwork since November 2008.

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff in his Department and its agencies were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274308]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) was formed in 2007. To collate such data for the Ministry's predecessor Departments and their agencies would incur disproportionate costs. Data from this date onwards are provided in the following table.

	Dismissals for under-performance	*Total dismissals*	*Number of MOJ employees*
2007-08	18	533	78,789
2008-09	27	481	81,402

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers since its inception. [277151]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice does not record information centrally at a level of detail that would allow for the specific identification of advertising expenditure in weekly and local newspapers. Such information is held locally by courts, prisons and probation boards throughout England and Wales and could be collated only at disproportionate cost. The vast majority of advertising expenditure incurred by the Ministry, however, relates to staff recruitment.

Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what definition his Department uses of *(a)* a private estate and *(b)* a statutory perpetual trust in relation to the status of the Duchies of (i) Cornwall and (ii) Lancaster; [275541]

(2) whether estates other than the Duchy of Cornwall receive bona vacantia properties. [275968]

Bridget Prentice: In England and Wales, property which is bona vacantia is ownerless property that passes to the Crown by law. It devolves to the Crown, the Duchy of Cornwall or the Duchy of Lancaster depending on where the last private owner was domiciled when they died or in the case of a dissolved company where the registered office and the asset were located. It is administered by the Treasury Solicitor on behalf of the Crown and by the solicitors acting on behalf of the Duchy of Cornwall or Lancaster respectively.

In general terms, the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster are private estates in that they belong to the heir apparent and the monarch respectively in their private capacities. The term "private estates" is, however, defined in several statutes including the Crown Private Estates Acts 1800, 1862 and 1873 and the Crown Lands Act 1823. The meaning of the term in this context is governed by the relevant statute.

I am not aware that my Department has used the term "statutory perpetual trust" to define the status of the Duchies. Nor is the term used in statute to describe them.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277173]

Mr. Wills: Euro Ministers are responsible for Euro preparations in their Department and attend Euro Ministers' Steering Group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover. The Government's policy towards membership of the single currency has not changed.

Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of local government expenditure of his decision to reduce the budget for family legal aid. [274732]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1445-1446W. We have not reduced the family legal aid budget. The consultation document, 'Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010', published by my Department and the Legal Services Commission, set out proposals aimed at maintaining legal aid expenditure at 2007-08 levels. The LSC and MOJ have discussed these proposals with a wide range of stakeholders, including the Local Government Association. The LSC has also received responses from a number of councils, which are being considered along with all the other responses received. We do not believe that these proposals would have a material impact on local government expenditure, and a full impact assessment will be published alongside the final proposals.

Parole

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders had their parole revoked in the latest year for which figures are available; and what the length of time between revocation and reception into prison was in each such case; [277278]

(2) what the average length of time between revocation of parole and reception into prison was in the latest year for which figures are available. [277279]

Mr. Straw: We are currently collating information in this area and will publish that information shortly. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Prison Accommodation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new prison places were provided in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [277256]

Mr. Hanson: 2,501 new prison places were provided in 2008 in England and Wales. To date in 2009 a further 522 new places have been delivered.

Figures include new build places and those provided through conversions of existing buildings to accommodation use. Places provided through other measures such as cell reclaims are excluded.

Prisoners: Self-harm

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign national prisoners committed acts of self-harm in prison in each year since 1997; [274144]

(2) how many and what proportion of self-harm incidents in prisons in England and Wales were committed by *(a)* foreign national prisoners and *(b)* foreign national prisoners held beyond the expiration of their sentence in each of the last five years. [274145]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service, (NOMS), has a broad, integrated and evidence-based prisoner suicide prevention and self-harm management strategy that seeks to reduce the distress of all those in prison. This encompasses a wide spectrum of Prison and Department of Health work around such issues as mental health, substance misuse and resettlement. Any prisoner identified as at risk of suicide or self-harm is cared for using the Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork (ACCT) procedures, a prisoner-focused care planning system for those at risk, which has helped prisons manage self-harm. Most self-harm is not directly life-threatening, but nevertheless can be extremely distressing for those who have to deal with it. There are no easy answers to preventing self-harming behaviour but we remain committed to finding ways to manage it.

Information on the total numbers of self-harm incidents is not available for the full time period requested (see table note). The following table details the estimated number of individuals who self-harmed from 2004 by type of nationality.

Nationality type	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
EEA—foreign nationals	117	147	163	196	187
Non-EEA—foreign nationals	394	348	413	428	418
UK nationals	4,580	4,982	5,062	5,178	5,458
Unknown	28	22	21	26	25

We do not specifically record whether foreign national prisoners died beyond the date that their sentence was due to expire. The numbers and proportions of self-harm incidents committed by foreign national prisoners in each of the last five years are detailed in the following table.

Nationality type	*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
EEA—foreign nationals	352	2	373	2	397	2	664	3	409	2
Non-EEA—foreign nationals	587	3	584	3	796	4	780	4	810	4
Unknown	52	0	47	0	80	0	65	0	58	0

No. = incidents

Notes:

1. The NOMS incident reporting system processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. A new system for recording self-harm was introduced in December 2002 and as a result recording improved throughout 2003. Numbers since 2004 are, therefore, not comparable with those collected previously.
2. Figures are approximate numbers of individuals, based on incidents of self-harm where the prisoner number was recorded.
3. The data are drawn from the prison administrative IT systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Nevertheless, the system provides a sensible indication of the numbers of incidents and individuals who self-harm but the numbers should not be treated as absolute.
4. Self-harm incidents are as reported on the NOMS incident reporting system. Due to transition between computer systems the numbers currently exclude a small proportion collected on the new NOMIS system..

Prisons: Dagenham

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of assessing bids for the construction contract for Beam Park West prison. [277472]

Mr. Straw: It is intended that the new prison at Beam Park West will be designed built and operated by the private or third sector. Therefore the evaluation of bidders' proposals will include evaluation of proposals for both the construction of the prison and the operation of the prison. The administrative costs to manage the whole procurement process, including the evaluation of bids, are included in the overall budget estimate for the new prisons but have not been broken out specifically into separate evaluation elements.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average weekly number of vehicles which will require access to and from the Beam Park West site once the proposed prison is operating at capacity. [277473]

Mr. Straw: No assessment of this has yet been made. However, as required by the local planning authority, an environmental impact assessment will be undertaken and submitted as part of the planning application.

Prisons: Greater London

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* meetings he has held with and *(b)* representations he has received from the Mayor of London on possible sites for new prisons within London. [277474]

Mr. Straw: As part of an exercise to identify potential sites for a prison in London, officials from the Ministry of Justice met the current Mayor in mid-2008 to discuss possible prison sites. Prior to this, a meeting was held in autumn 2007 with the former Mayor.

In addition, I spoke to the Mayor on 27 April 2009, the day of announcement of the site at Beam Park West to Parliament.

Probation Officers

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to ensure that sufficient probation officers are trained over the next two years. [277055]

Mr. Hanson: Five hundred and fifty probation officers graduate from their diploma course in autumn 2009 and 300 will graduate in autumn 2010. This is sufficient to meet expected vacancies for probation officers over the next two years. I intend to publish shortly a consultation on a new framework for qualifications' training and career progression for probation practitioners which will be in place from April 2010.

Repossession Orders: Reading, Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in Reading, East constituency in each month of the last 10 years. [276995]

Bridget Prentice: Figures for Reading, East constituency are not available. However, the tables show the number of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in Reading county court for each month from 1999.

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made while not all court orders result in repossession.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, geographical boundaries of county courts may not necessarily be consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries. Repossession orders made at Reading county court may therefore relate to properties in other constituencies besides Reading, East constituency.

The Ministry of Justice has published a consultation note on proposed changes in the National Statistics on mortgage and landlord possession actions in the county courts of England and Wales. One of the proposed changes is to publish these statistics by local authority area, based on the physical locations of the properties which are the subject of the possession actions, as part of the regular statistical publication from 2009 quarter 2.

Further information can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/stats-mort-landlord-note.pdf

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made[2,3] in Reading county court by each month, 1999-2009

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[4]
January	48	6	31	18	23	3	41	85	56	46	41
February	28	32	7	22	12	66	19	43	32	56	[5]30
March	32	16	27	17	27	38	58	51	42	55	[5]30
April	20	25	20	37	8	25	37	46	39	63	—
May	13	28	29	8	55	12	37	37	50	69	—
June	25	38	21	20	25	24	46	26	41	50	—
July	13	9	34	27	24	38	42	43	51	67	—
August	10	16	34	9	2	38	79	56	42	64	—
September	39	34	27	30	70	34	71	84	60	78	—
October	0	42	0	24	29	16	39	40	44	67	—
November	38	15	11	11	2	36	46	64	39	43	—
December	29	20	13	14	59	49	19	53	28	42	—
Total	295	281	254	237	336	379	534	628	524	700	41

Number of landlord[4] possession orders made[2,3] in Reading county court by each month, 1999-2009

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*20Q3*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*[4]
January	51	77	71	74	46	58	70	79	76	77	67
February	61	54	44	37	41	50	47	66	67	70	80
March	55	71	66	56	57	64	82	53	68	55	96
April	52	77	45	53	68	51	61	49	38	97	—
May	64	92	39	58	91	49	54	51	47	51	—
June	66	86	33	40	35	51	28	37	67	62	—
July	67	77	64	89	49	34	94	59	56	70	—
August	52	69	32	54	65	71	44	70	63	35	—
September	80	106	57	76	85	71	42	63	64	70	—
October	26	95	47	57	40	39	56	58	66	77	—
November	113	48	62	68	47	44	65	61	60	54	—

Number of landlord[6] possession orders made[2,3] in Reading county court by each month, 1999-2009

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009[4]*
December	53	42	31	49	53	74	59	45	57	75	—
Total	740	894	591	711	677	656	702	691	729	793	243

[1] Includes all types of mortgage lenders.

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

[3] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.

[4] Figures for the latest quarter (January-March 2009) are provisional. And figures for quarter 2 (April-June) are yet to be released by Ministry of Justice as National Statistics.

[5] The Mortgage Pre Action Protocol for possession claims relating to mortgage or home purchase arrears was introduced on 19 November 2008. Its introduction has coincided with a substantial fall in the number of new mortgage possession claims in 2008 quarter 4 and subsequently In the number of mortgage possession orders in 2009 quarter 1.

[6] The landlord data include all types of landlords whether social or private sector, and cover orders made using both the standard and accelerated possession procedures. The accelerated procedure is used by landlords in relation to shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end. It enables orders to be made by the court solely on the basis of written evidence and without calling the parties to hearings.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Young Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders there are in each criminal justice area. [276847]

Mr. Straw: A persistent young offender (PYO) is a young person aged 10 to 17 who has been sentenced guilty by any criminal court in the UK on three or more separate occasions for one or more recordable offence, and within three years of the last sentencing occasion is subsequently arrested or has an information laid against them for a further recordable offence.

This definition is designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system, through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. However, the definition is not designed to provide a reliable measure of the level of youth offending over time, and it will give a misleading picture of the true trend if used for this purpose.

The above pledge was first met over a full calendar year in 2002 and has been met in all but one calendar year since then. Youth sentencing is therefore now more timely, and for repeat offenders more frequent, than it used to be prior to 1997. As the PYO definition relies on repeat sentencing occasions, a side-effect of the Government's success in bringing much swifter justice to young repeat offenders is that more of them end up being defined as PYOs.

The table shows the number of individual PYOs sentenced in 2008, for each police force area.

On 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 58-59WS, I announced in a written ministerial statement that the PYO pledge would be dropped with effect from the end of 2008. This is therefore the last year for which PYO statistics will be published and compiled.

Number of persistent young offenders (PYOs) sentenced in 2008, by police force area

Police force area	*Number of persistent young offenders*
Avon and Somerset	394
Bedfordshire	110
Cambridgeshire	191
Cheshire	242
Cleveland	304
Cumbria	240
Derbyshire	296
Devon and Cornwall	335
Dorset	143
Durham	259
Dyfed-Powys	134
Essex	397
Gloucestershire	164
Greater Manchester	1,158
Gwent	173
Hampshire	676
Hertfordshire	188
Humberside	365
Kent	354
Lancashire	617
Leicestershire	232
Lincolnshire	106
Merseyside	471
Metropolitan	1,849
Norfolk	157
North Wales	203
North Yorkshire	250
Northamptonshire	160
Northumbria	826
Nottinghamshire	331
South Wales	355
South Yorkshire	388
Staffordshire	268
Suffolk	208
Surrey	120
Sussex	362
Thames Valley	428
Warwickshire	117
West Mercia	312
West Midlands	715
West Yorkshire	875
Wiltshire	111
England and Wales[1]	15,819

[1] The England and Wales total figure includes British Transport Police.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Atos Healthcare

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department's contract with Atos Healthcare is expected to expire. [275104]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions contract with Atos Healthcare commenced on 1 September 2005 and is due to expire on 31 August 2012. The Department also has options to extend for a further five years up to 31 August 2017.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child maintenance cases are unable to be processed due to technical faults with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's computer systems; how many cases have been so affected in each of the last five years; and what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average delay in processing claims due to computer system failures was in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iii) the East of England and (iv) the North West and Wales in each of the last five years. [274048]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many child maintenance cases are currently unable to be processed due to technical faults with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission's computer systems; how many cases have been so affected in each of the last five years; and what the (a) longest and (b) average delay in processing claims due to computer system failures was in (i) North West Cambridgeshire (ii) Cambridgeshire (iii) the East of England and (iv) North West England and Wales in each of the last five years. [274048]

Technical faults with the Child Support Agency's computer systems result in cases being progressed clerically rather than not being processed. The Commission routinely publishes information on the number of cases which are processed clerically. This information is not available at regional level, and the latest national figures are available in Table 20 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics; a copy of which is available in the House of Commons library, or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

The number of cases the Agency managed clerically at a national level at 31 March 2009 was 60,000, which is less than 5% of the total caseload. Although the need to progress such claims clerically is not ideal, around £1 million in child maintenance is now collected each week for these cases.

The growth in the number of cases progressed clerically in the last six months is primarily a result of an upgrade to the Agency's computer system in September 2008 which allowed the Agency to identify cases previously stuck and take action to progress them clerically. Information about any delays in processing individual claims clerically due to technical or other problems with the computer system is not available.

I am sorry on this occasion I could not be more helpful.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was owed in arrears of child maintenance payments in each quarter of each of the last two years; what recent progress has been made towards the payment of such arrears; what priority the payment of such arrears has in the work programme of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission; whether such targets have been set for the reductions of levels of such arrears; and if he will make a statement. [274722]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 12 May 2009]*: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much was owed in arrears of child maintenance payments in each quarter of each of the last two years; what recent progress has been made towards the payment of such arrears; what priority the payment of such arrears has in the work programme of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission; whether such targets have been set for the reductions of levels of such arrears; and if he will make a statement. [274722]

Information on the amount of child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents is routinely published in both the Child Support Agency Annual Report and Accounts and the Quarterly Summary of Statistics, both of which provide the latest audited estimate of child maintenance arrears to the end of March 2008. This information by quarter is set out in the attached table. The Commission's latest estimate on the amount of child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents in each quarter of the last year to March 2009 is also set out in the attached table. The table also includes the amount of child maintenance collected and arranged for each quarter from March 07 to March 09. This estimate is based on the Commission's internal analysis and is subject to year end audit. The fully audited estimate will be published in the Child Support Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2009, currently expected to be published in July.

Collection of maintenance including arrears remains a priority for the Child Support Agency and its targets for the current year include the collection of £1135 million of which £170 million should be arrears. It is the total collected, rather than the separate amounts of current maintenance and arrears which affects movements in the total arrears outstanding, and there is no separate target to reduce the total. The Child Support Agency has made significant progress in the amount of maintenance collected over the period of its Operational Improvement Plan and as a result the rate at which arrears has grown has slowed dramatically from £23 million per month in 2004/5 to less than £2 million per month in per month in 2008/9 (based on un-audited figures).

However the current amount of arrears owed by non-resident parents is the cumulative total of sixteen years of maintenance owed and new arrears will continue to accrue as it is not possible to achieve total compliance.

Child maintenance arrears and maintenance collected and arranged including arrears each quarter from March 2007 to March 2009

Child maintenance arrears		*Overall maintenance collected and arranged including arrears (rolling 12 Months)*		
Quarter ending	*Arrears (£ billion)*	*12 months ending*	*Total maintenance collected (£ million)*	*Of which arrears (£ million)*
March 2007	3.69	March 2007	898	91
June 2007	3.73	June 2007	916	97
September 2007	3.76	September 2007	942	106
December 2007	3.79	December 2007	975	116
March 2008	3.81	March 2008	1,010	126
June 2008[1]	3.82	June 2008	1,050	138

Child maintenance arrears and maintenance collected and arranged including arrears each quarter from March 2007 to March 2009.

Child maintenance arrears		*Overall maintenance collected and arranged including arrears (rolling 12 Months)*		
Quarter ending	*Arrears (£ billion)*	*12 months ending*	*Total maintenance collected (£ million)*	*Of which arrears (£ million)*
September 2008[1]	3.83	September 2008	1,088	149
December 2008[1]	3.84	December 2008	1,112	156
March 2009[1]	3.83	March 2009	1,132	158

[1] Figures up to and including March 2008 have been audited. Figures after this date are yet to be audited and signed off.

Note:

The total debt outstanding is cumulative total of all debt accrued since the launch of the Child Support Agency in 1993.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents who owed child maintenance *(a)* received prison sentences, *(b)* received suspended prison sentences, *(c)* had their driving licences removed and *(d)* had their houses or other assets sequestered in the last year for which figures are available. [274723]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents who owed child maintenance (a) received prison sentences, (b) received suspended prison sentences, (c) had their driving licences removed and (d) had their houses or other assets sequestered in the last year for which figures are available. 274723

In the 12 months to the end of January 2009, 30 non-resident parents received prison sentences, 510 received suspended prison sentences, 30 non-resident parents received suspended driving licence disqualification and 5 were disqualified from driving. In the same period the Child Support Agency referred 106 cases for Order for Sale action of which 45 hearings have concluded, with 27 orders being granted and a further 29 awaiting a hearing. The Agency took possession of 3 properties and in a further 14 cases are awaiting payment prior to possession being taken.

The Child Support Agency has also increased the number of enforcement actions targeted at assets including capital, available to non-resident parents. A total of 18,320 cases were referred to Bailiffs (including 'attachments' in Scotland) who can seize assets to recover debt. A total of 5,785, third party debt orders or arrestments in Scotland as well as charging orders were taken out enabling the Child Support Agency to access funds held by third parties such as banks or building societies, or to place a charge on the equity in property. Finally in Scotland alone 1,760 Bills of Inhibition were taken out, this is a personal prohibition preventing heritable property being transferred, alienated or disposed of by the non-resident parent.

Table 21 of the March 2009 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) gives information on the total volume of different enforcement actions undertaken by the Agency. The QSS is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much debt is owed to the Child Support Agency. [275407]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much debt is owed to the Child Support Agency. [275407].

Information on the amount of child maintenance arrears owed by non-resident parents is routinely published in both the Child Support Agency Annual Report and Accounts and the Quarterly Summary of Statistics, both of which provide the latest audited estimate of child maintenance arrears to the end of March 2008.

As at March 2009, the amount of Child Maintenance Arrears owed by non-resident parents to parents with care or the Secretary of State is £3.8 billion. This figure is un-audited.

The Agency is collecting more arrears than it has ever done before and in March 2009 collected £13.8 million in maintenance arrears alone. A total of £158m has been collected in arrears in the year ending March 2009, an increase of £31.7m from the previous 12 months.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277717]

Jonathan Shaw: The high level review, undertaken by the Met Office and delivered in January 2008, of the impacts of climate on the policies and operations of DWP did not seek to identify any costs or savings associated with adaptation. The more detailed review, which will be commissioned when the 2009 UK Climate Impact Projections are published, will further explore the key business, customer and operational issues and begin to estimate the costs and savings associated with climate change and adaptation.

Council Tax Benefits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2009, *Official Report,* column 107W, on council tax benefits, if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of altering personal allowances for council tax benefit to provide for households where no individual earns more than £10,000 per annum, including personal tax allowance, to receive full council tax benefit, regardless of the amount of capital held; and if he will make an estimate of the number of households which would pay a reduced rate or no council tax as a result of such a change. [276552]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 20 May 2009]*: The following table shows the estimated cost and number of council tax benefit (CTB) beneficiaries if full CTB was awarded to all households where no individual earns more than £10,000 per annum, regardless of the amount of capital held.

Full CTB if no individual earns more than £10,000

	Number of beneficiaries	*Cost in annually managed expenditure (£ million per year)*
Pensioners	1,500,000	1,350
Working age	1,100,000	800
Total	2,610,000	2,140

Notes:
1. All figures are for Great Britain.
2. Beneficiaries are rounded to the nearest 10,000 and costs are rounded to the nearest £10 million. These estimates include customers who gain and those who become entitled to the benefit.
3. Each beneficiary represents a benefit unit, which can be a single claimant or a couple.
4. The impact is estimated using the Department's Policy Simulation Model for 2008-09, using data from the 2006-07 Family Resources Survey up-rated to 2008-09 prices, benefit rates and earnings levels, and is calibrated to latest published forecasts and policies.
5. Results are subject to sampling and reporting errors and estimation assumptions, and are therefore indicative only. No behavioural changes are assumed.

Departmental Hotels

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on hotel accommodation for officials in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last three years. [277893]

Kitty Ussher: The Department has in place policies that ensure when any officials are required, as a result of their duties, to stay in hotels they are provided with accommodation that is safe, secure and of an acceptable standard.

The table shows the Department's expenditure on hotel accommodation for officials in each of the last three years. The figures need to be seen against the background of a Department with over 100,000 staff whose responsibilities cover the whole of Great Britain.

Hotel spend	*£ million*
1 April 2008-31 March 2009	12.3
1 April 2007-31 March 2008	11.6
1 June 2006-31 March 2007	9.7

Detailed data are only available since June 2006. The figures shown for 2006-07 therefore cover an eight-month period.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to review the level of expenditure by staff of his Department on hotel accommodation. [277916]

Kitty Ussher: The Department's Commercial Directorate reviews the level of expenditure on hotel accommodation on a monthly basis to ensure best value is being obtained from its contractual arrangements.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years. [277148]

Jonathan Shaw: Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. However, this has also to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

Much Government advertising aims to alert people to things that can save lives—and we make no apologies for campaigns like this—such as wearing seat belts, not drinking and driving, quitting smoking and what to do in an emergency. We also use our communications work to protect public funds, for example through our work to drive down benefit fraud.

The other main area of activity is in recruiting people to important frontline services such as in attracting more people to become nurses and police, which are crucial to the public's welfare.

The channels used for advertising in the media are firstly via the advertising and media buying roster of the Central Office of Information for campaign and editorial requirements and, secondly, via local and national newspapers for recruitment and low value, low complexity adverts on behalf of DWP agencies.

The spend requested is detailed in the following tables:

Central Office of Information—May 2009

£

	Type		
April to March each year	*Dailies*	*Weeklies*	*Total*
2004-05	2,106,570	2,036,635	4,143,205
2005-06	1,178,870	1,287,684	2,466,554
2006-07	697,279	548,869	1,246,148
2007-08	1,012,708	1,188,008	2,200,716
2008-09	2,244,547	1,392,521	3,637,068
Total	7,239,974	6,453,717	13,693,691

Note:
These data apply to all regional publications and are split by dailies and weeklies.

Non-COI advertising

£

	Type		
April to March each year	*Local*	*National*	*Total*
2006-07	8,752	4,125	12,877
2007-08	10,515	20,085	30,600
2008-09	24,091	142,338	166,429
Total	43,358	166,548	209,906

Notes:
1. All non-COI advertising is via local and national newspaper publications.
2. Data for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are not available as they were not held centrally at that time. The Department would incur disproportionate cost to try and obtain these data.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since 2005. [274471]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The information that is available is given in the following table. This records items reported as lost or stolen.

	BlackBerry devices	*Mobile telephones*
2005	0	31
2006	0	15
2007	19	14
2008	16	35

Two of the BlackBerry devices reported in 2007 were lost by Ministers. None has been reported as lost by or stolen from Ministers since then.

Disability Living Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed disability living allowance in circumstances where the main disabling condition was recorded as obesity in each of the last 10 years. [266115]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have received benefits as a result of obesity in each of the last five years; [266641]

(2) how many people have received *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support as a result of obesity in each of the last five years. [267242]

Jonathan Shaw: Having a condition of obesity does not confer entitlement to any benefit.

It is important to note that, where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded. In light of this, the information provided cannot be taken as a robust indication of the underlying condition that results in entitlement to incapacity benefits.

Entitlement to disability living allowance is not dependent on a diagnosis or condition but relies instead on the care and/or mobility needs arising. In the case of someone with obesity, people with this recorded diagnosis may have other underlying physical or mental complications that have caused/exacerbated their obesity.

Information about the number of people receiving disability living allowance where the main disabling condition is recorded as obesity is not collated centrally at this level of detail.

For a person to qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, they have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Entitlement for a customer claiming incapacity benefit on the grounds of obesity would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities in the personal capability assessment.

The available information for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance is in the table. Some of those people who claim incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance will also claim income support on grounds of incapacity.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants with the medical condition of obesity in Great Britain

As at August each year	*All*	*Obesity*
2004	2,817,010	1,780
2005	2,767,740	1,840
2006	2,724,980	1,910
2007	2,683,160	2,010
2008	2,632,000	2,130

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data are for GB and abroad.
3. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
4. To qualify for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, claimants have to undertake a medical assessment of incapacity for work which is called the personal capability assessment. Therefore, the medical condition recorded on the incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claim form does not itself confer entitlement to incapacity benefits.
5. People claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance may also qualify for income support on grounds of incapacity.
6. From 27 October 2008, employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support for new claims only. information about employment and support allowance is not yet available.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

To qualify for jobseeker's allowance, unemployed people must be available for and actively seeking work. They are also required to enter into a jobseeker's agreement in which they agree the steps they will take to improve their chances of finding employment. Jobseekers generally have to be available immediately for any work and for a minimum of 40 hours each week. Where a person is unable to undertake any work, due to ill health, they will not be entitled to JSA and should claim an alternative benefit.

Employment Schemes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are responsible for administering the employers' golden hello scheme announced by his Department on 12 January 2009. [269014]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus employer engagement staff, personal advisers and centralised payment processing teams will be responsible for administering the recruitment subsidy. All financial transactions relating to the recruitment subsidy to employers will be the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions' Shared Services.

Employment Services: Lone Parents

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to assist single parents seeking employment during the economic downturn. [270926]

Kitty Ussher: From 6 April, lone parents on jobseeker's allowance for six months or more can access an expanded range of work, training and volunteering opportunities. This includes incentives of up to £2,500 for employers to recruit and train unemployed people, consisting of a recruitment subsidy worth £1,000 and, depending on location, access to in-work training worth a further

£1,500. Qualifying jobseekers who wish to become self-employed also have access to practical advice and financial support to start a business.

Longer-term jobseekers will receive help from the flexible new deal which will provide job-search support tailored to the specific needs of the individual and address related barriers to employment. The flexible new deal will be introduced in phase one areas from October 2009.

Additionally, all single parents in receipt of working-age benefits continue to have immediate access to the new deal for lone parents. This voluntary programme provides access to a specialist personal adviser, in-work benefit advice and a range of other assistance.

Income Support: Mortgages

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of people receiving assistance from his Department with the cost of meeting mortgage interest repayments. [270854]

Kitty Ussher: The most recent information available is in the following table.

Number of people receiving assistance with mortgage interest in Great Britain, as at November 2008

	Number
Income support	76,800
Jobseeker's allowance (income based)	5,500
Pension Credit	110,300

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
2. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources.
3. Mortgage interest can only be claimed on income-based jobseeker's allowance.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Jobcentre Plus

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of Jobcentre offices have reported physical capacity constraints in the last 12 months; and what guidance his Department has issued to jobcentres on physical capacity; [266132]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people who have not received Jobcentre services as a result of physical capacity constraints in the last 12 months. [266133]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many and what proportion of Jobcentre offices have reported physical capacity issues in the last 12 months; and what guidance his Department has issued on capacity problems; and what estimate he has made of the number of people turned away from Jobcentre offices owing to capacity issues in the last 12 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are not aware of any Jobcentre offices having to turn people away. To ensure that capacity problems do not arise in the future we are examining service delivery plans, including, where necessary, options for the physical expansion of sites that may face pressure in the short to medium term.

Jobcentre Plus Customer Service Directors regularly review their service delivery plans to ensure optimum provision, and accessibility, of service for all customers.

I am confident that the process of regular review of local service delivery plans will ensure that this situation does not arise.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff employed by his Department's agencies other than Jobcentre Plus work in Jobcentre Plus offices; which agencies such staff work for; and for how long he expects such working arrangements to endure. [269045]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the ho[illegible] Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff employed by DWP's agencies other than Jobcentre Plus work in Jobcentre Plus offices; which agencies such staff work for; and for how long we expect such working arrangements to endure. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Up until 31 March 2009, Jobcentre Plus headcount was being supplemented by around 470 full-time equivalents (FTEs) on loan from Pensions, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS), and Debt Management within DWP. The table below sets out the current numbers from 1 April 2009 and when the loan period is planned to end. We also have planned the transfer of around 500 people on a permanent basis from the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission between 1 March and 30 June 2009.

DWP Business area	*Number of staff (FTEs)*	*Date loan period is planned to end*
PDCS	21	End of April 2009
Debt Management	300	End of May 2009
DWP shared services	50	End of March 2010
DWP corporate HR	37	End of June 2009
Total	457	

Jobseeker's Allowance: Interviews

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average waiting time was for first jobseeker interviews for a claimant for jobseeker's allowance in each of the smallest geographical areas for which information is available in the latest period for which figures are available; [271721]

(2) what the average waiting time was for first jobseeker interviews for a claim for jobseeker's allowance in the latest period for which information is available. [275548]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus does not collect the average waiting time. The available information on the percentage of new jobseeker interviews booked within three days from the date the customer first contacts us is in the table. The data show performance for the operational year ending March 2009 down to district level, the smallest geographical area available.

New jobseeker interviews booked within three days	*March 2009 YTD (percentage)*
Derbyshire	69.7
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	71.5
Lincolnshire and Rutland	71.5
Nottinghamshire	64.8
East Midlands	69.5
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	80.9
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	73.0
Essex	80.2
Norfolk	72.9
East of England	77.3
Central London	80.7
City and East London	81.8
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	74.0
North and North East London	84.8
South London	79.6
West London	80.3
London	80.5
Northumbria	73.7
South Tyne and Wear Valley	73.1
Tees Valley	71.9
North East	73.0
Cheshire and Warrington	75.3
Cumbria and Lancashire	69.6
Greater Manchester Central	76.0
Greater Manchester East and West	69.6
Merseyside	76.2
North West	72.8
Ayr, Dumfries and Galloway	86.4
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	82.6
Forth Valley and Fife	86.6
Glasgow	85.3
Highlands, Islands and Clyde	81.4
Lanarkshire	88.0
Office for Scotland	84.9
North and Mid Wales	82.5
South East Wales	83.9
South Wales Valleys	77.0
South West Wales	84.2
Office for Wales	81.7
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire	74.9
Hampshire	75.8
Kent	62.6
Surrey and Sussex	64.0
South East	68.8
Devon and Cornwall	68.2
Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	59.3
Somerset and Dorset	73.3
West of England	70.0
South West	67.6
Birmingham and Solihull	65.5
Black Country	72.6
Coventry and Warwickshire	60.3
Staffordshire	59.1
The Marches	54.4
West Midlands	63.7
North and East Yorkshire and Humber	79.9
South Yorkshire	69.9
West Yorkshire	75.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	75.3
National	74.1

Source:
Jobcentre Plus

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the changes to the support offered under the income support for mortgage interest scheme which came into effect in January 2009 are applicable to people who were claiming before that date; and if he will make a statement. [277690]

Kitty Ussher: The changes introduced to support for mortgage interest from 5 January 2009 apply to working age people who make new claims on or after that date.

People who claimed income support, employment and support allowance and jobseeker's allowance before 5 January, but who were still in a waiting period for support for mortgage interest on 4 January also benefit from these changes.

People who were already receiving support for mortgage interest before 5 January were unaffected.

All customers, existing and new, including those on pension credit, are helped by the freeze to the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest at 6.08 per cent. until December 2009.

Pensioners: Carers' Benefits

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason women over 60 years old are not eligible to receive adult dependency increase in respect of a husband or civil partner under 65 years old. [277106]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Differences have existed in relation to dependency increases of benefit since the inception of the Social Security scheme in 1948, mainly because women were not regarded in general as having to support their husbands who would tend to have their own personal access to national insurance benefits.

The Pensions Act 2007 abolished these outdated dependency rules for state pensions and from April 2010 no further increases will be awarded with the state pension. By April 2020 any remaining adult dependency payments paid with a state pension will cease completely.

Poverty: Children

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what projection his Department has made of the level of *(a)* absolute and *(b)* relative child poverty in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12; and what information his Department holds on the geographical distribution of the increase since 2006-07 in the number of (A) children and (B) adults of working age living in relative poverty after housing costs announced on 7 May 2009. [276514]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is as follows:

Child poverty projections

The Government do not publish official projections of child poverty into the future due to the uncertainty surrounding the assumptions made around future demography, employment and average earnings, as well as the uprating of tax credits and benefits.

The geographical distribution of poverty

This information can be found in the latest release of Households Below Average Income which is available on the DWP website and in the Library. In this, disaggregation by geographical regions is presented as three-year averages. This presentation has been used as single-year regional estimates are considered too volatile. The most recent available data available since 2006/07 are in the following tables.

Risk of living in relative (60 per cent. of median) low income poverty (AHC) for children by region and country (per cent.) three-year average

Region/country	*2004-05 to 2006-07*	*2005-06 to 2007-08*
England	30	31
North East	33	33
North West	31	34
Yorkshire and the Humber	29	30
East Midlands	29	30
West Midlands	33	35
East of England	25	26
London	41	39
South East	25	26
South West	26	27
Scotland	25	24
Wales	29	32
Northern Ireland	26	26

Risk of living in relative (60 percent of median) low income poverty (AHC) for working age adults by region and country (percent) 3 year average

Region/country	*2004-05 to 2006-07*	*2005-06 to 2007-08*
England	20	21
North East	22	23
North West	21	22
Yorkshire and the Humber	20	21
East Midlands	20	20
West Midlands	22	23
East of England	17	18
London	24	24
South East	16	17
South West	18	18
Scotland	18	19
Wales	20	23
Northern Ireland	18	18

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of benefit claimants receiving each type of benefit are aged between 18 and 30 years. [276259]

Kitty Ussher: The most recent available information is in the following tables.

Proportion of benefit recipients aged 18-30 in Great Britain as at November 2008

	Percentage
Incapacity Benefit (IB)	13.4
Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)	7.3
Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)	46.2
Income Support	27.3
Carers Allowance (CA)	11.5
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)	7.9
Bereavement Benefits (BB)	1.5

Note:

Proportions are rounded to the nearest 1 decimal place.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 percent WPLS

Proportion of benefit recipients aged 18-30 in Great Britain as at May 2004

	Percentage
Council Tax Benefit	11
Housing Benefit (HB)	15

Note:

Proportions are rounded to the nearest whole per cent.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management information System Annual 1 per cent. sample taken in May 2008

Welfare Reform Bill

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on the provision of child care to enable single parents to carry out work-related activity under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [275404]

Kitty Ussher: The Department works closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to ensure the successful delivery of the National Childcare Strategy for England, which aims to ensure that there is sufficient child care available to meet the needs of working families and to support parents who are undertaking work related activities. Key to this are the provisions in the Childcare Act 2006, which includes a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient child care to ensure they meet the need of their local communities, in particular for those on low incomes and who have disabled children.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many bonuses have been awarded to senior civil servants working in the Equality and Human Rights Commission in each year since its inception; and what expenditure was incurred on such bonuses in each year. [277878]

Maria Eagle: No bonuses have been awarded to senior civil servants working in the Equality and Human Rights Commission during the period 1 October 2007 to 31 May 2009.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Telephone Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost of *(a)* recruiting and *(b)* training helpline staff in the Equality and Human Rights Commission has been in each year since its creation. [277875]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

2007-08:

(a) £326,228 was spent on recruitment of helpline staff;

(b) £211,070 was spent on training of helpline staff.

2008-09:

(a) No further recruitment took place;

(b) £20,000 was spent on training of helpline staff.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether an equality impact assessment on the removal of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's helpline from the Manchester office has been undertaken. [277877]

Maria Eagle: Following the announcement of the proposed changes to the helpline in February 2009, the EHRC has been completing an equality impact assessment which will continue to be updated as part of the on-going consultation and decision making process. A full analysis of the equality impact assessments and mitigations will be made available to the senior management team ahead of any decision being taken.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions the Equality and Human Rights Commission had with recognised trades unions on the future of its helpline team in Manchester before deciding to close the team. [277879]

Maria Eagle: Since February 2009 the EHRC have been consulting with the trade unions regarding the proposed reorganisation of the helpline. There have been five formal meetings with the recognised trade unions to discuss the proposal. In addition the trade unions have been actively involved in a series of action groups looking at specific elements of the proposal.

The senior management team are currently considering the points raised during the consultation period by the trade unions and no decision has been made to go ahead with the proposed changes.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many calls have been received by the Equality and Human Rights Commission's helpline in each quarter since its inception. [277900]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission's helpline has been operational since 1 October 2007. Robust reporting systems were not in place until February 2008. The available call statistics from that date are as follows:

	Number of calls received
February to June 2008	28,247
July to September 2008	17,172
October to December 2008	14,924
January to March 2009	22,113

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 608W, whether his Department has received representation from other governments on the employment of their citizens in the UK armed forces between 2000 and the issue of his Written Ministerial Statement on army nationality policy of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 33-4WS. [277010]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has not received any representation from other Governments on the employment of their citizens in the UK armed forces from 2000 to date.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department provides to members of the armed forces who have been invalided out of service; what *(a)* discussions he has had and *(b)* representations he has received on this issue since 2008; whether he plans to increase the assistance available during the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [277007]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We take our responsibilities for those who are medically discharged from the armed forces seriously. For those requiring assistance, MOD provides health care and welfare support in service, but at service termination the primary responsibility passes to the normal civilian agencies. The Department's Veterans Welfare Service is there to provide advice on issues such as entitlement to pensions and compensation under the Department's no-fault schemes. In the case of the severely injured, the welfare service monitors those discharged for a period of at least two years to provide advice should difficulties arises.

Working together with civilian and third sector agencies, our aim is to achieve a smooth and seamless transition. Those invalided from service are eligible for the MOD's full resettlement package, including support into work where this is appropriate, and automatic configuration of pension. Where the invaliding disorder is due to service, no fault compensation benefits will be assessed and paid, and for the relevant condition the individual will be eligible for NHS priority treatment with additional benefits such as free prescriptions.

In July 2008 we published the Service Personnel Command Paper, 'The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government Support for our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans', which outlined the pledges we made to ensure service personnel, their families and veterans are not disadvantaged by the unusual demands of serving in the armed forces and to recognise the sacrifices made by their families and those who have served.

As Minister for Veterans, I meet regularly with veterans and ex-service organisations. Topics raised since 2008 have included priority treatment, civilian mental health services, a new study being undertaken into British Nuclear Test Veterans and the issues of cultural understanding that can arise for those who have served when they seek help from civilian health professionals. Officials from the MOD, other Government Departments, the devolved Administrations and the charities continue to work together to address all key concerns, communicating existing entitlements to all those involved, and areas where improvements might be made to arrangements for ensuring a seamless transition back into civilian life.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department allocated to services for members of the armed forces of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* regiment, *(c)* service and *(d)* age cohort invalided out of service in each year since 2003. [277008]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my predecessor the hon. Member for Halton (Derek Twigg) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 14W.

Armed Forces: Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the minimum salary is for a junior officer serving in Afghanistan, excluding operational and separation allowances. [278092]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The minimum annual basic pay for a junior officer serving in Afghanistan including X-factor effective from 1 April 2009 is £24,133.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military *(a)* bases and *(b)* other sites owned by his Department containing accommodation areas are (i) redundant and (ii) shortly to become redundant for his Department's purposes. [277867]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested will take a little time to gather and verify. I will write to the hon. Member with the information that is available as soon as possible.

Departmental Lost Property

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of the replacement of such property. [274945]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 12 May 2009]*: 1,237 cases of theft of MOD property were reported to the Ministry of Defence police and service police during the last 12 months. It is not possible to identify the individual items reported stolen and the cost of replacing them without incurring disproportionate cost.

Harrier Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the GR4 to replace the Harrier GR9/9A in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [277911]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 24-25WS.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274545]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Health and safety is inherent in everything that the MOD does and how our staff, both civilian and service, conduct themselves. We do not separate out such costs associated with compliance with health and safety legislation. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget for helicopter procurement projects has been in each year since 2001. [277524]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The in-year budgets for all helicopter procurement projects for each year from financial year 2001-02 to 2008-09 are shown in the following table.

	£ million
2001-02	842
2002-03	524
2003-04	318
2004-05	257
2005-06	260
2006-07	209
2007-08	473
2008-09	448

These figures exclude funding for emergent urgent requirements and some commodity items bought in support of these projects.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to reply to Question 274945, tabled by the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife, on lost and stolen property on 7 May 2009. [277917]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I replied to the hon. Member today.

Somalia: Piracy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK military personnel have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden in each of the last 12 months. [273089]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of UK military personnel deployed in the Gulf of Aden over the past 12 months is broken down by month in the following table.

	Number of UK Military Personnel
June 2008	880
July 2008	675
August 2008	189
September 2008	872
October 2008	255
November 2008	460
December 2008	367
January 2009	437
February 2009	563
March 2009	442
April 2009	194
May 2009	1,635

The fluctuations in numbers are caused by Royal Naval ships transiting the region as part of an operation or exercise. For example, most recently, the Royal Navy's Taurus 2009 deployment in May 2009.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Association of Chief Police Officers: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* budgetary support and *(b)* other funding her Department has given to the Association of Chief Police Officers in the last 12 months. [276791][1]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 147W.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget is of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) for 2009-10; and what the salary of the *(a)* President and *(b)* Chief Executive of ACPO is. [276929]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

Asylum: Registration

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the asylum registration card scheme in 2008. [276557]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not hold centrally figures on the amount spent on the Asylum Registration Card Scheme. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Spain

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for asylum entered the UK via Spain and Gibraltar in the last 12 months. [273316]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency does not record statistics in relation to asylum applicants travelling to the UK via Spain and Gibraltar. The information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case files.

Asylum seekers should apply in the first safe country. A safe country is one of which the applicant is not a national or citizen and in which a person's life or liberty is not threatened by reason of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. It is also one from which a person would not be sent to another state in contravention of his rights under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 New York Protocol.

We are countering asylum "shopping" across the EU through the Dublin Regulation and use of the Eurodac database, which helps us to identify and make returns to the responsible member state. Spain is a party to the Dublin Regulation but Gibraltar is not.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police authority area have received the specialist training necessary to work on child protection. [265225]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There is a range of specialist training available to police forces for those working in child protection. This includes the 'Specialist Child Abuse Investigators Development Programme' and local multi-agency training in relation to Working Together guidance. The only data held centrally relate to the online element of the Specialist Child Abuse Investigators Development Programme and these are shown in the table.

Number of staff who have registered for the online component of the Specialist Child Abuse Investigators Programme by region and police force. Data as at 20 April 2009

ACPO region	*Police force*	*Number enrolled*
Eastern	Bedfordshire Police	6
	Cambridgeshire Constabulary	39
	Essex Police	24
	Hertfordshire Constabulary	35
	Norfolk Constabulary	9
	Suffolk Constabulary	2
	Total Eastern	115
East Midlands	Derbyshire Constabulary	8
	Leicestershire Constabulary	18
	Lincolnshire Police	4
	Northamptonshire Police	5
	Nottinghamshire Police	4
	Total East Midlands	39

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[1] *[Official Report, 21 July 2009, Vol. 496, c. 9MC.]*

Number of staff who have registered for the online component of the Specialist Child Abuse Investigators Programme by region and police force. Data as at 20 April 2009

ACPO region	*Police force*	*Number enrolled*
London	City of London Police	2
	Metropolitan Police	162
	Total London	164
North East	Cleveland Police	0
	Durham Constabulary	0
	Humberside Police	1
	Northumbria Police	47
	North Yorkshire Police	1
	South Yorkshire Police	0
	West Yorkshire Police	4
	Total North East	53
North West	Cheshire Constabulary	14
	Cumbria Constabulary	33
	Greater Manchester Police	35
	Lancashire Constabulary	17
	Merseyside Police	51
	Total North West	150
South East	Hampshire Constabulary	3
	Kent Police	32
	Surrey Police	2
	Sussex Police	7
	Thames Valley Police	4
	Total South East	48
South West	Avon and Somerset Constabulary	64
	Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	15
	Dorset Police	1
	Gloucestershire Constabulary	3
	Wiltshire Constabulary	2
	Total South West	85
West Midlands	Staffordshire Police	4
	Warwickshire Police	4
	West Mercia Constabulary	57
	West Midlands Police	97
	Total West Midlands	162
Wales	Dyfed-Powys Police	2
	Gwent Police	6
	North Wales Police	0
	South Wales Police	8
	Total Wales	16
Other	Police Service of Northern Ireland	86
	National Policing Improvement Agency	17
	Total other	103
Total		935

Note:
Information about completion rate is not held centrally.

Community Relations: Islam

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effect on the Muslim community of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy. [277863]

Mr. Coaker: My Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government regularly discuss aspects of Contest including how to involve all communities in contributing to its success. Strong and empowered communities are better equipped to effectively reject the ideology of violent extremism, isolate apologists for terrorism and provide support to vulnerable individuals and institutions.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275200]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information for the Home Office is set out in the table.

	£
2006-07	373
2007-08	910
2008-09	2,850

The Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau have not made any payments under the Act, during the last three years.

The Home Office has signed up to the CBI's prompt payment code and BS 7890, the British Standard for prompt payment.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by her Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years. [277154]

Mr. Woolas: The amount spent in the last five years is shown in the table.

		£
	Weekly regional	*Daily regional*
2004-05	407,708	508,143
2005-06	232,532	339,130
2006-07	438,349	213,866

	Weekly regional	£ Daily regional
2007-08	267,772	34,639
2008-09	433,518	497,250

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on departmental press, whether the magazines, newspapers and other publications subscribed to by her Department were for delivery to the homes of *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers or *(c)* civil servants. [276179]

Mr. Woolas: In accordance with the current framework agreements in place the Home Office does not purchase centrally any magazines, newspapers and other publications for delivery to the home addresses of Ministers, special advisers or civil servants. All publications are delivered to the business addresses of the Department, its agencies and NDPBs.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work placements her Department offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [276483]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested on work placements for school pupils is not recorded centrally in the Home Office or its agencies. Work experience placements are authorised and organised locally by managers in business units.

The Home Office provides around 30 placements annually to graduates and undergraduates from a minority ethnic background and/or a registered disability, through the civil service fast stream summer placement schemes. They are paid an allowance within the executive officer range.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many scheduled deportations were cancelled in 2008. [276364]

Mr. Woolas: Internal management information, which is unaudited data and is subject to change, indicates that there were around 1,000 occasions in 2008 where there was a need to reschedule removal directions for those who were subject to deportation orders. These data are centrally collated and are not broken down to account for the number of individuals they refer to or the reasons as to why removal directions were rescheduled.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide robust and accurate information on the deportation of foreign national criminals. She has explained that there are several issues which may cause deportation to be rescheduled. For example, there may be occasions when it is administratively cheaper or easier to reschedule a flight or last minute representations and judicial reviews launched by legal representatives or individual's behaviour becomes unmanageably obstructive, including use of 'dirty protests', and when there are last minute documentation issues.

Much progress has been made to minimise the impact of these issues which is demonstrated in the continued record performance of the agency in deporting or removing foreign national prisoners, where nearly 5,400 were removed in 2008. As confirmed in the UK Border Agency's 2009-10 business plan, it will continue to aim to deport or remove record numbers of foreign criminals in the forthcoming year.

Entry Clearances: EU Nationals

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizens of other EU member states have been denied access to the UK on the basis of previous criminal convictions in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [270258]

Mr. Woolas: From 2006-08, 929 EU Nationals were refused entry at the UK border on grounds relating to the public good.

The annual breakdown is as follows:

	Number of EU Nationals refused entry to the UK
2006	186
2007	388
2008	355

This includes, but is not limited to those EU Nationals refused entry due to criminal convictions. This information could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

The data provided is based on locally-collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1293W, on entry clearances: overseas students, whether in circumstances where overseas students pay accommodation and other fees in advance greater than the required monthly minimum, they are required to demonstrate additional funds. [277884]

Mr. Woolas: Tier 4 applicants are required to demonstrate that they hold sufficient funds to cover both (1) their course fees for their first year of study and (2) to satisfy the maintenance test.

Where an applicant has paid money towards their course fees and/or accommodation before they submit their application, this money can be offset from the total amount of funds the applicant must demonstrate, provided that they submit the specified evidence.

Where a migrant has demonstrated that they have paid their full course fees before they submit their application, the applicant will not have to show any further funds for course fees. Equally should the moneys paid to the education provider for accommodation equal or exceed the amount the applicant is required to demonstrate for maintenance, the applicant will not be required to show any further funds for maintenance.

Where the payments made for either course fees or accommodation fall short of the full amount required, the applicant must demonstrate that they hold sufficient funds to cover the shortfall.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border Agency based in the UK are partly or wholly responsible for examining student visa applications. [271369]

Mr. Woolas: Applications from those outside the UK for student visas are considered by UKBA staff in visa sections at the relevant post abroad.

The only exception is for visa applications made in Algeria which are currently processed in London. This operation has six full time staff based in the UK whose work load includes student applications.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* student visas and *(b)* tourist visas have been issued to Pakistani nationals in (i) the last 12 months, (ii) the last five years and (iii) the last 10 years. [271818]

Mr. Woolas: The number of *(a)* student visas, and *(b)* visit visas issued to Pakistani nationals in (i) 2008 and (ii) the five years 2004-08, is shown in the following table. Reliable data is not held for years prior to 2004.

	Calendar years	
	2008	*2004-08*
Student visas	9,663	58,783
Visit visas		
Family	38,272	207,585
Other	38,012	289,380

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many days the Poppy project has had beds which were not being used in the last 12 months. [277691]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Poppy project records vacancies on a weekly rather than daily basis. Information from the Poppy project shows that over the last 12 months there was at least one unoccupied bed-space in 36 out of 52 weeks. The vacant periods could have ranged from one night to a week.

Immigration: Marriage

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1831W, on immigration: marriage, whether she has assessed the effect of the change made in 2003 in the probationary period on those seeking settlement on the basis of marriage. [260523]

Mr. Woolas: It is difficult to isolate the effect of the change in the length of the probationary period from the effects of other factors, including the no-switching provision which was made at the same time. An initial examination of the data shows a significant increase in the percentage of applications refused after the rule change in 2003. The increase in the length of the probationary period is likely to have been one significant factor in the increase.

Immigration: Somalia

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Somali nationals were granted entry into the UK in each of the last three years. [276256]

Mr. Woolas: The latest available statistics on the number of Somali nationals granted entry to the United Kingdom are for 2005 to 2007 and are given in the table. Data for 2008 are scheduled for publication in August 2009.

The information shown is based on landing card information and may include the same individuals more than once if they visited the United Kingdom on multiple occasions in the period.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey and nationality are published annually in table 2.3 of the Home Office publications "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" which are available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Somali nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom, 2005-07

Passengers admitted	*Number of journeys*
2005	5,610
2006[1]	3,540
2007[2,3]	3,150

[1] Due to some gaps in the data from ports, estimates have been used.

[2] May understate due to some administrative records on non-EEA nationals being unavailable for statistical analysis. The explanatory notes and definitions in the "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007" gives further details.

[3] Provisional.

Note:

Data rounded to three significant figures.

National DNA Database

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the DNA record of the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham will be removed from the national DNA database. [265856]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The hon. Member does not have a DNA profile held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

Oakington Immigration Removal Centre

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of Oakington Immigration Reception Centre; and if she will make a statement. [277277]

Mr. Woolas: The current lease of Oakington from the Housing and Communities Agency, and the planning permission for its use, expire on 30 June 2010.

We plan to continue to operate Oakington as an immigration removal centre until that date, beyond which our operation is subject to the consent of the landlord and the local council. We are committed to ensuring that the continued operation of Oakington does not delay or otherwise impact upon the proposed Northstowe development.

Official Residences

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 228W, on 62 South Eaton Place, and of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 160W, on official residences, if she will place in the Library a copy of the selling agents' advice which recommended that a home condition report not be purchased. [276961]

Mr. Woolas: The selling agent has advised that a condition report would be of little relevance as the property is most likely of interest for re-development.

A redacted copy of the agent's disposal report was placed in the Library on 26 November 2008.

Points of Entry

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many manned points of entry into the UK there are. [275796]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency operates at 128 ports in the UK and a further 10 at juxtaposed locations in Belgium and Northern France.

UKBA maritime assets patrol coastal waters around the UK and also work regularly in support of operations by other law enforcement agencies, to maintain a range of intelligence-led and risk-based controls on all routes of entry to UK.

Police: Absenteeism

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many long-term absentee police officers of each *(a)* rank and *(b)* sex there were in each police force area in each year since 1997. [273527]

Mr. Coaker: The available information shows the number of long-term absentees as at 31 March each year from 2003 to 2008. It is shown in the following tables.

Number of police officers (full-time equivalents) on long-term absence[1], by police force area in England and Wales, rank and gender, as at 31 March: 2003-08[2]

31 March 2003

	Male							Female						
	ACPO	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*	*ACPO*	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*
Avon and Somerset	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	23	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	11
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	3	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	1	4	20	0	0	0	0	0	2	11
Cheshire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	17
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Cumbria	0	0	0	1	0	5	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Derbyshire	0	0	0	2	1	4	28	0	0	0	0	1	0	16
Devon and Cornwall	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	39	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	3	22
Dorset	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	3	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	3
Durham	0	0	0	0	1	2	16	0	0	0	0	0	2	11
Essex	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	5	30	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	[1]—	3	23
Gloucestershire	1	0	1	0	2	2	15	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	3	4
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	3	9	26	224	0	0	0	1	4	7	143
Gwent	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1
Hampshire	0	0	0	1	3	15	49	0	0	0	0	1	3	33
Hertfordshire	0	0	1	1	0	2	18	0	0	0	1	0	3	17
Humberside	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	8	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	20
Kent	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	5	10	94	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	1	4	32
Lancashire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	2	10	34	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	6	45
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	1	9	29	0	0	0	0	0	2	27
Lincolnshire	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	3	18	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	16
London, City of	0	1	0	0	2	1	14	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
Merseyside	0	0	1	1	3	11	117	0	0	0	1	3	4	39
Metropolitan Police	0	0	0	7	33	128	747	0	0	0	0	4	25	332
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	1	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	9
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	1	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Northumbria	[1]—	[1]—	1	[1]—	3	5	66	[1]—	[1]—	1	[1]—	[1]—	6	52
North Wales	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	1	3	17	71	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	28

Number of police officers (full-time equivalents) on long-term absence[1], by police force area in England and Wales, rank and gender, as at 31 March: 2003-08[2]

	31 March 2003													
	Male							Female						
	ACPO	Chief Supt.	Supt.	Chief Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	Const.	ACPO	Chief Supt.	Supt.	Chief Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	Const.
North Yorkshire	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	8
South Wales	0	0	0	1	2	2	19	0	0	0	0	0	3	16
South Yorkshire	[5]—	[5]—	1	[5]—	[5]—	2	8	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	10
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	1	5	84	0	0	0	0	0	5	74
Suffolk	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	2	15	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	[5]—	10
Surrey	0	1	1	7	14	111	470	0	0	0	0	1	29	234
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	1	12	60	0	0	1	0	1	2	52
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
West Mercia	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	2	6	31	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	2	12
West Midlands	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—
West Yorkshire	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	1	10	60	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	1	19
Wiltshire	[5]—	[5]—	1	[5]—	1	6	17	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	7

	31 March 2004													
	Male							Female						
	ACPO	Chief Supt.	Supt.	Chief Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	Const.	ACPO	Chief Supt.	Supt.	Chief Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	Const.
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	3	26	170	0	0	0	1	1	0	71
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	2	2	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	4	28	0	0	0	0	0	4	16
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	3	20
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Cumbria	0	0	0	1	0	3	28	0	0	0	1	0	3	16
Derbyshire	0	0	0	2	1	5	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	1	1	7	47	0	0	0	0	1	5	25
Dorset	0	0	0	0	1	12	55	0	0	0	0	1	4	33
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Dyfed-Powys	[5]—	1	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	5	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	2	[5]—
Essex	0	0	0	0	1	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	1	4	15	0	0	0	0	1	3	10
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	2	10	21	172	0	0	0	1	5	16	107
Gwent	0	0	0	0	1	4	32	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	3	13	72	0	0	0	0	1	12	48
Hertfordshire	1	0	0	0	0	1	24	0	0	0	0	2	3	36
Humberside	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	4	13	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	20
Kent	0	0	0	0	1	10	57	0	0	0	0	0	5	45
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	1	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	22
Leicestershire	0	0	0	1	0	7	30	0	0	0	0	0	2	19
Lincolnshire	0	0	1	1	0	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	2	16
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Merseyside	0	0	1	1	1	4	64	0	0	0	0	2	4	23
Metropolitan Police	0	1	0	5	10	64	401	0	0	0	2	5	24	204
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	1	4	17	0	0	0	1	0	3	16
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	1	6	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	2	13	80	0	0	0	0	0	5	36
North Wales	2	[5]—	[5]—	4	13	49	252	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	10	129
North Yorkshire	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	[5]—	1	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	5
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	2	24	99	0	0	1	0	1	3	41
South Wales	0	0	0	0	2	7	72	0	0	0	0	0	3	44
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	2	7	23	0	0	0	0	0	5	12
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	1	7	29	0	0	0	0	0	3	29
Suffolk	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	1	1	9	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	14
Surrey	0	0	0	0	1	8	30	0	0	0	0	0	1	22

31 March 2004

	Male							*Female*						
	ACPO	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*	*ACPO*	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*
Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	2	15	0	0	0	1	1	5	27
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	2	12	62	0	0	1	0	2	4	58
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	1	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	1	13	57	0	0	0	0	0	2	34
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	110
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	3	6	61	0	0	1	0	1	4	41
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

31 March 2005

	Male							*Female*						
	ACPO	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*	*ACPO*	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	1	5	15	0	0	0	0	1	1	24
Cambridgeshire	0	1	0	0	0	3	18	0	0	0	0	1	3	19
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	2	8	46	0	0	0	0	3	1	29
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	6	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	2	3	19	0	0	0	0	1	3	15
Derbyshire	0	0	0	2	1	1	22	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	1	12	40	0	0	0	0	2	6	34
Dorset	0	0	0	2	1	7	27	0	0	0	0	0	3	23
Durham	0	1	0	0	0	6	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Essex	0	0	0	1	2	2	15	0	0	0	1	0	2	25
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	2	4	15	0	0	0	0	1	0	15
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	2	6	19	187	0	0	0	0	6	12	131
Gwent	0	0	0	0	1	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	2	19	77	0	0	0	0	0	15	54
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	0	0	0	0	3	2	36
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	3	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Kent	0	0	0	0	1	2	33	0	0	0	2	0	2	40
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	1	4	45	0	0	0	0	2	3	45
Leicestershire	0	0	1	0	5	12	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	1	1	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	2	10
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Merseyside	0	0	1	0	1	9	72	0	0	0	1	0	0	33
Metropolitan Police	0	1	1	3	11	66	373	0	0	0	2	7	32	291
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	7	36	0	0	0	1	0	1	18
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	1	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	18
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	2	8	58	0	0	0	0	0	4	54
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	5	10	72	0	0	0	0	0	8	28
South Wales	0	0	1	0	1	8	64	0	0	0	0	0	2	40
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	5	7	39	0	0	0	0	0	4	25
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	1	6	23	0	0	0	0	1	3	28
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	1	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	3	12
Surrey	0	0	0	0	3	5	29	0	0	0	0	2	2	31
Sussex	0	1	0	0	5	8	44	0	0	0	1	4	7	36
Thames Valley	0	0	1	0	4	11	71	0	0	1	0	2	2	68
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	1	1	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	2	4	30	0	0	0	0	0	2	16
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	0	0	0	0	2	6	74
West Yorkshire	0	1	0	0	3	9	120	0	0	0	0	0	8	66
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	1	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	11

31 March 2006

	ACPO	Chief Supt.	Supt.	Male Chief Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	Const.	ACPO	Chief Supt.	Supt.	Female Chief Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	Const.
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	11	33	231	0	0	0	2	5	5	88
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	2	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	25
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	3	1	11	0	0	0	1	0	3	28
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	1	12	42	0	0	0	0	2	3	38
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	1	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	4	5	28	0	0	0	0	1	4	31
Derbyshire	0	0	0	1	3	4	27	0	0	0	0	1	2	24
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	1	7	54	0	0	0	0	1	4	47
Dorset	0	0	0	2	1	5	28	0	0	0	0	1	6	16
Durham	0	0	0	0	1	3	32	0	0	0	0	1	0	14
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
Essex	0	0	0	0	2	1	12	0	0	0	1	0	8	19
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	1	4	18	0	0	0	0	1	2	13
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	1	6	11	123	0	0	0	1	7	13	113
Gwent	0	0	1	0	0	4	26	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	5	24	127	0	0	0	0	3	16	78
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	1	3	33
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Kent	0	0	0	1	5	4	36	0	0	0	0	1	6	45
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	2	11	53	0	0	0	0	2	6	42
Leicestershire	0	0	1	0	3	3	34	0	0	0	0	2	1	24
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	7	22	0	0	0	0	0	2	19
London, City of	0	0	0	0	1	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Merseyside	0	0	0	1	1	8	67	0	0	1	0	0	2	31
Metropolitan Police	0	0	3	5	15	69	383	0	0	0	2	8	35	303
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	3	17	0	0	1	1	2	1	17
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	1	2	3	17	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
Northumbria	0	0	0	1	5	15	105	0	0	0	0	0	7	51
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	15
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	4	3	41	0	0	0	0	0	7	34
South Wales	0	0	0	1	4	21	67	0	0	0	1	1	7	54
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	1	4	20	0	0	0	0	2	3	20
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	2	5	18	0	0	0	0	1	4	27
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	1	2	13
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0	3	17	0	0	0	0	2	2	22
Sussex	0	0	1	2	4	5	41	0	0	0	1	3	3	33
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	0	5	38	0	0	1	1	3	3	45
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	2	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
West Mercia	0	1	1	0	2	7	41	0	0	0	1	0	5	30
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	0	0	0	0	3	12	62
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	3	7	72	0	0	0	0	0	4	53
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	1	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	19

31 March 2007

	ACPO	Chief Supt.	Supt.	Male Chief Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	Const.	ACPO	Chief Supt.	Supt.	Female Chief Insp.	Insp.	Sgt.	Const.
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	4	46	0	0	0	0	1	2	32
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	1	1	0	15	0	0	0	0	1	1	12
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	1	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	19
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	5	29	0	0	0	0	3	3	26
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	0	0	0	2	2	28	0	0	0	0	0	1	29

31 March 2007

	Male							*Female*						
	ACPO	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*	*ACPO*	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	3	9	28	0	0	0	0	0	1	17
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	2	3	6	57	0	0	0	0	0	5	52
Dorset	0	0	0	1	1	5	21	0	0	0	0	1	5	21
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	5	23	0	0	0	0	2	1	17
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Essex	0	0	0	0	1	9	34	0	0	0	1	0	8	36
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	5	17	0	0	0	0	1	4	17
Greater Manchester	0	1	0	2	4	10	104	0	0	0	1	2	9	117
Gwent	0	0	0	0	1	7	16	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
Hampshire	0	0	0	0	2	12	74	0	0	0	0	0	12	68
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	1	2	29	0	0	0	0	0	5	39
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	31
Kent	0	1	0	0	2	1	41	0	0	0	0	2	6	46
Lancashire	0	0	0	1	2	7	42	0	0	0	0	1	7	51
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	2	3	29	0	0	0	0	0	2	31
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	1	8	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	28
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
Merseyside	0	1	0	0	3	10	64	0	0	0	1	0	4	36
Metropolitan Police	0	0	4	3	13	70	360	0	0	0	0	2	34	330
Norfolk	1	0	0	0	5	4	13	0	0	0	0	0	4	25
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	0	0	0	0	1	5	9
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	7	15	99	0	0	0	1	0	6	30
North Wales	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	2	23	0	0	0	0	0	1	25
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	1	6	34	0	0	0	0	1	6	35
South Wales	0	0	0	1	3	13	48	0	0	0	0	2	7	52
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	2	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	5	12
Staffordshire	0	0	0	0	2	5	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	1	1	11	0	0	0	0	1	3	19
Surrey	0	0	1	3	1	6	34	0	0	0	0	1	1	20
Sussex	0	0	1	3	2	11	39	0	0	0	0	1	4	36
Thames Valley	0	0	1	0	3	5	56	0	0	0	2	0	8	57
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
West Mercia	0	1	0	0	3	8	54	0	0	0	0	1	10	45
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	4	19	84	0	0	0	1	2	12	120
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	9	56	0	0	0	0	1	4	62
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	2	4	16	0	0	0	0	1	2	24

31 March 2008

	Male							*Female*						
	ACPO	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*	*ACPO*	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*
Avon and Somerset	0	1	0	1	2	8	60	0	0	0	0	0	5	59
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	1	0	4	18	0	0	0	0	1	1	29
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	1	3	26	0	0	0	0	2	0	31
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	1	5	32	0	0	0	1	4	4	33
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Cumbria	0	0	0	1	3	3	40	0	0	0	0	0	3	27
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	2	2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	2	10	53	0	0	0	0	0	7	31
Dorset	0	0	0	1	3	10	43	0	0	0	0	1	4	17
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	3	23	0	0	0	0	0	5	19
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	17

	31 March 2008													
	Male							*Female*						
	ACPO	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*	*ACPO*	*Chief Supt.*	*Supt.*	*Chief Insp.*	*Insp.*	*Sgt.*	*Const.*
Essex	0	0	0	0	1	4	29	0	0	0	1	1	7	41
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	0	4	12	108	0	0	0	0	1	16	115
Gwent	0	0	0	0	1	1	24	0	0	0	0	1	1	11
Hampshire	0	0	1	1	4	11	79	0	1	0	0	4	15	71
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	3	4	30	0	0	0	0	0	1	29
Humberside	0	0	0	0	2	3	17	0	0	0	1	0	0	26
Kent	0	1	0	0	3	3	36	0	0	0	0	0	8	58
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	3	7	53	0	0	0	0	0	3	48
Leicestershire	0	1	0	0	3	4	19	0	0	0	0	1	0	34
Lincolnshire	0	0	1	0	3	7	24	0	0	1	0	0	3	22
London, City of	0	0	1	0	0	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	3	8
Merseyside	0	0	0	0	3	9	67	0	0	0	0	0	3	44
Metropolitan Police	0	0	5	12	31	108	712	0	0	0	1	11	49	453
Norfolk	0	0	0	1	0	6	34	0	0	0	1	2	2	16
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	1	2	4	16	0	0	0	0	1	2	23
Northumbria	0	0	0	1	2	8	54	0	1	0	0	0	4	38
North Wales	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	1	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	3	26
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	2	5	29	0	0	0	0	1	4	34
South Wales	0	0	0	0	3	6	62	0	0	1	1	0	8	63
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	1	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	1	16
Staffordshire	0	0	1	1	0	4	29	0	0	0	0	0	2	26
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	4	24
Surrey	0	0	0	4	2	7	37	0	0	0	0	0	4	10
Sussex	0	0	0	0	1	7	24	0	0	0	0	3	9	37
Thames Valley	0	0	0	0	2	8	38	0	0	0	1	2	12	72
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	3	4	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	3	11	50	0	0	0	1	1	7	61
West Midlands	0	0	0	1	5	9	90	0	0	0	1	3	7	111
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	3	8	75	0	0	0	0	1	3	75
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	3	14	0	0	0	0	2	1	14

[1] Long-term absences are only those absences that have lasted for more than 28 days. They include career breaks, compassionate leave, maternity/paternity leave, special leave, study leave, suspension and sick leave.

[2] These data are provisional and are unaudited by police forces.

[3] Data not provided.

Key:

Chief Supt. = Chief Superintendent

Supt. = Superintendent

Chief Insp. = Chief Inspector

Insp. = Inspector

Sgt. = Sergeant

Const. = Constable

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1204, what the evidential basis was for her statement that the hon. Member for Wellingborough was wrong about time police officers spend on the beat in Northamptonshire; and if she will make a statement. [277469]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* The hon. Member for Wellingborough stated that in his county the amount of time spent on the beat was down to 10 per cent. In fact, the amount of time officers in his county spend patrolling and involved in no other activity is 10 per cent; the total amount of time they spend on the beat will be considerably greater than this.

Police: Official Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations she has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [247690]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary regularly goes out to visit front line police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), both in police stations and as part of neighbourhood policing visits.

For example, in February this year my right hon. Friend visited a police station in Southampton, and has met front line police officers and PCSOs in their communities on many occasions in the last 12 months, including undertaking visits to Basildon, West Yorkshire, Luton, Northampton, South Yorkshire and Cardiff.

Proof of Identity: Fraud

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people under 18 years old have been prosecuted for fraud for possessing a faked or doctored form of identification in *(a)* Herefordshire, *(b)* the West Mercia Constabulary area and *(c)* the West Midlands in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [277693]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons aged 10 to 17 years proceeded against at magistrates courts, for offences contrary to the Fraud Act 2006, Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981, and the Identity Cards Act 2006, in relation to possession of faked or doctored form of identification in West Mercia and west midlands police force area for 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

It is not possible to further break down data to county level (i.e. Herefordshire), as Herefordshire forms part of West Mercia police force area, data for West Mercia police force area has thus been provided in lieu.

Section 25 of the Identity Cards Act, commenced on 7 June 2006.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of persons aged 10 to 17 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to certain sections of the Fraud Act 2006, Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981, and the Identity Cards Act 2006, in West Mercia and West Midlands Police Force Area, 2007[1,2,3]

Statute	*Offence description*	*West Mercia police force area*	*West midlands police force area*
Fraud Act 2006 s.1(2a)(3)(4), 2(la)(b)	Dishonestly makes a false representation to make a gain for himself or another or to cause loss to another or to expose another to a risk.	4	9
Fraud Act 2006 s.6	Possession etc. of articles for use in frauds.	1	2
Fraud Act 2006 s.7	Make, adapt, supply or offer to supply any article knowing that it is designed or adapted for use in the course of or in connection with fraud, or intending it to be used to commit or facilitate fraud.	—	—
Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 secs 3, 4	Using a false instrument etc in respect of scheduled drug.	—	—
Identity Cards Act 2006 s.25(l)(2)(6)	With intent knowingly possess false/ improperly obtained/ another's ID document.	—	2
Identity Cards Act 2006 s.25(3)(4)(6)	With intent make/ possess/have under your control apparatus/article/ material designed/ adapted for making false ID documents.	—	—
Identity Cards Act 2006 s.25(5)(7)	Possess/control a false/ improperly obtained ID card or which relates to another or apparatus etc for making ID documents.	—	—

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Section 25 of the Identity Cards Act, commenced on 7 June 2006.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff there were in the *(a)* Intervention Directorate, *(b)* Enforcement Directorate, *(c)* Corporate Services Directorate and *(d)* Intelligence Directorate of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency on the latest date for which figures are available. [274002]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As of 30 April, the Serious Organised Crime Agency had 3,989 full-time equivalent staff. These were as follows:

	Full-time equivalent staff
(a) Intervention Directorate	934
(b) Enforcement Directorate	1,212
(c) Corporate Services Directorate	562
(d) Intelligence Directorate	1,094
(e) Legal, Corporate Assurance and Executive Co-ordination	87

In addition, the Child Exploitation and On-line Protection centre has 100 full-time equivalent SOCA funded staff (including secondees in and those on SOCA contracts).

Sexual Offences: Registration

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders are *(a)* required to register with the police and *(b)* registered with the police; and how many sex offenders have breached their registration requirements in the last 12 months. [274075]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on the number of registered sexual offenders in England and Wales is available in the annual published multi agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) reports:

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

Each police force monitors all registered sex offenders in their area and knows which of these offenders is currently compliant with the notification requirements. Offenders in breach of their notification requirements have committed a criminal offence and are liable to a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment.

Special Constables: Working Hours

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours on average a special constable worked in each police force area in each year since 1997. [273528]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the tables.

The Government have increased the funding for special constables to ensure that there will be an extra 6,000 officers by 2011.

This information is not complete as some forces have not provided data, and the information was not collected before 2002-03.

In order to reduce bureaucracy still further, it will no longer be collected by the Home Office in the future.

Hours worked by special constables[1]

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	48,578	61,485	n/a	77,974	96,021	80,981
Bedfordshire	17,888	25,000	42,107	46,972	57,393	45,000
Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	37,451	44,799	46,545
Cheshire	28,588	22,268	30,421	52,516	66,045	59,683
Cleveland	11,950	13,028	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cumbria	13,816	9,356	22,231	32,694	32,061	30,462
Derbyshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	59,758	50,639	43,227
Devon and Cornwall	79,620	68,484	44,212	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset	38,349	35,307	35,960	45,658	60,991	54,054
Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	18,887	20,914	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	5,251	5,033	4,276	14,075	18,349	14,136
Essex	82,940	83,638	95,593	118,175	119,018	145,477
Gloucestershire	20,800	12,455	17,101	20,484	18,741	14,228
Greater Manchester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gwent	19,451	15,242	25,623	12,606	14,028	12,222
Hampshire	78,036	81,354	80,677	90,300	103,276	83,864
Hertfordshire	54,853	67,258	74,021	74,437	81,437	89,010
Humberside	27,499	n/a	n/a	63,624	82,469	80,095
Kent	98,680	83,962	90,244	84,206	81,018	82,600
Lancashire	n/a	n/a	72,592	82,866	88,300	n/a
Leicestershire	16,589	18,512	n/a	36,342	48,085	46,865
Lincolnshire	24,336	26,692	26,843	25,823	25,616	19,056
London, City of	7,954	10,312	9,719	8,615	6,629	11,508
Merseyside	80,723	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Metropolitan Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	59,208	32,879	21,102	59,500	58,000	64,140
Northamptonshire	38,304	36,651	59,691	52,167	42,496	25,509
Northumbria	26,842	23,269	23,150	21,723	8,287	5,524
North Wales	n/a	n/a	n/a	14,568	17,362	26,316
North Yorkshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	26,892	30,912	29,612
Nottinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	29,706	50,455	53,196
South Wales	29,346	54,870	n/a	53,629	35,583	27,720
South Yorkshire	34,005	27,145	28,617	52,383	48,014	53,837
Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	77,168
Suffolk	53,487	50,681	n/a	37,437	59,551	64,524
Surrey	n/a	n/a	47,245	66,867	70,290	n/a
Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	55,148
Thames Valley	58,690	62,108	n/a	52,358	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	50,208	45,107	51,227	49,629	34,192	25,523
West Mercia	51,985	41,000	42,128	n/a	n/a	44,588
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	176,630	158,350	131,127
West Yorkshire	69,517	62,016	60,641	64,395	63,731	55,374
Wiltshire	29,664	33,739	43,480	39,619	29,815	n/a

n/a = Data unavailable.

[1] The data are unvalidated and therefore provided on a provisional basis only

Special constable[1]

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	345	305	396	408	404	444
Bedfordshire	98	146	209	181	166	142
Cambridgeshire	189	193	199	185	202	210
Cheshire	161	173	192	225	291	282

Special constable[1]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Cleveland	102	85	66	138	179	195
Cumbria	94	77	126	152	166	142
Derbyshire	249	301	369	429	506	445
Devon and Cornwall	645	602	582	572	549	505
Dorset	214	210	230	264	295	295
Durham	94	81	91	109	117	126
Dyfed-Powys	152	151	167	194	190	169
Essex	371	349	363	439	451	559
Gloucestershire	157	155	146	157	133	143
Greater Manchester	340	345	380	424	403	350
Gwent	130	136	144	137	14[illegible]	204
Hampshire	373	346	369	388	[illegible]	457
Hertfordshire	193	206	226	232	268	266
Humberside	157	209	328	330	344	344
Kent	286	341	338	306	293	349
Lancashire	351	336	319	366	379	393
Leicestershire	149	159	181	168	178	202
Lincolnshire	139	156	179	166	171	165
London, City of	42	54	52	70	74	72
Merseyside	503	371	259	345	392	456
Metropolitan Police	692	742	697	1,221	1,741	2,510
Norfolk	239	241	253	262	271	271
Northamptonshire	189	197	242	237	214	180
Northumbria	221	169	240	198	191	123
North Wales	133	124	124	136	164	160
North Yorkshire	177	160	173	189	184	178
Nottinghamshire	261	295	333	361	382	378
South Wales	173	218	198	281	301	334
South Yorkshire	204	200	204	270	298	264
Staffordshire	391	376	409	406	380	371
Suffolk	275	266	267	293	305	360
Surrey	212	255	289	280	275	278
Sussex	303	181	200	197	204	199
Thames Valley	369	341	375	327	286	246
Warwickshire	190	169	190	211	200	208
West Mercia	309	280	263	284	274	251
West Midlands	637	715	959	1,021	937	769
West Yorkshire	374	403	417	440	494	403
Wiltshire	154	169	174	180	185	149

[1] Total strength is based on headcount figures.

Average hours worked[2]

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Avon and Somerset	141	202	n/a	191	238	182
Bedfordshire	183	171	201	260	346	317
Cambridgeshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	202	222	222
Cheshire	178	129	158	233	227	212
Cleveland	117	153	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cumbria	147	122	176	215	193	215
Derbyshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	139	100	97
Devon and Cornwall	123	114	76	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorset	179	168	156	173	207	183
Durham	n/a	n/a	n/a	173	179	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	35	33	26	73	97	84
Essex	224	240	263	269	264	260
Gloucestershire	132	80	117	130	141	99
Greater Manchester	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gwent	150	112	178	92	97	60
Hampshire	209	235	219	233	235	184
Hertfordshire	284	326	328	321	304	335
Humberside	175	n/a	n/a	193	240	233
Kent	345	246	267	275	277	237
Lancashire	n/a	n/a	228	226	233	n/a
Leicestershire	111	116	n/a	216	270	232
Lincolnshire	175	171	150	156	150	115

	Average hours worked[2]					
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
London, City of	189	191	187	123	90	160
Merseyside	160	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Metropolitan Police	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Norfolk	248	136	83	227	214	237
Northamptonshire	203	186	247	220	199	142
Northumbria	121	138	96	110	43	45
North Wales	n/a	n/a	n/a	107	106	164
North Yorkshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	142	168	166
Nottinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	82	132	141
South Wales	170	252	n/a	191	118	83
South Yorkshire	167	136	140	194	161	204
Staffordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	208
Suffolk	194	19[illegible]	n/a	128	195	179
Surrey	n/a	n/a	163	239	256	n/a
Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	277
Thames Valley	159	182	n/a	160	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	264	207	270	235	171	123
West Mercia	168	146	160	n/a	n/a	178
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	n/a	173	169	171
West Yorkshire	186	134	145	146	129	137
Wiltshire	193	200	250	220	161	n/a

n/a = Data unavailable

[1] Total strength is based on headcount figures.

UK Border Agency: Consultants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency spent on external consultants in 2008. [263207]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency spent £27.2 million on external consultants during financial year 2007-08.

Visas: Overseas Students

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are applied by the UK Border Agency to the grant of student visas to foreign medical students who require more than four years to complete their training. [258633]

Mr. Woolas: Under the tier 4 immigration rules, a student such as a medical student, following a course of study at or above degree level for longer than 12 months, and who meets all of the requirements of the immigration rules, will be granted leave to cover the full duration of their course, plus an additional period of four months.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Employment: Young People

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of people under 18 years old in employment in *(a)* Tameside, *(b)* Stockport and *(c)* Greater Manchester. [277500]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

We are determined to ensure that as many young people as possible continue their learning beyond the age of 16 to get the qualifications and experience they need to make a successful transition into employment in an increasingly competitive labour market. Many will continue their learning in the workplace through an apprenticeship or work based learning programme.

All 16 and 17-year-olds will be offered a suitable place in education or training under the September Guarantee. The additional investment announced in Budget 2009, together with the plans that we recently announced to make available an additional 17,500 apprenticeship places for 16 to 18-year-olds, mean that we are now investing over £6.8 billion in 16-18 education and training, providing a record level of more than 1,550,000 learning places. Schools, colleges and Connexions services will give young people across Greater Manchester the advice and support they need to find a suitable opportunity in education, employment or training.

Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects the Forward Framework on Higher Education to be published. [277848]

Mr. Lammy: We expect to publish our Framework for the future of Higher Education this summer.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of those who applied to study full-time at a higher education institution for a first degree came from a household with gross annual income of *(a)* £25,000 or under, *(b)* between £25,001 and £50,020 and *(c)* higher than £50,020 in 2009-10. [277849]

Mr. Lammy: Complete information on household incomes of applicants is not available centrally.

Higher Education: Part-time Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many part-time first degree entrants there have been at *(a)* the Open University and *(b)* other higher education institutions in each year since 2002-03. [277846]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for the Open University cannot split undergraduate level of study into first degree and other undergraduate until the 2003/04 academic year, therefore figures for the 2002/03 academic year have not been provided. The Open University coded their entrant numbers incorrectly in the 2004/05 academic year, therefore these have not been provided.

Part-time first degree entrants[1] by higher education institution—UK higher education institutions academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Open University*	*All other UK HEIs*
2003/04	25,555	38,905
2004/05	n/a	36,715
2005/06	31,640	37,755
2006/07	32,095	34,185
2007/08	31,630	33,725

[1] Covers entrants of all domiciles.

n/a = not available. The OU incorrectly coded entrants in the 2004/05 academic year.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

TREASURY

Bank Services: Post Offices

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Financial Services Authority regulates Bank of Ireland products offered via Post Office Ltd.; and if he will make a statement. [273084]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of Ireland operates as a branch in the UK and is therefore regulated by the Irish Financial Regulator.

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role *(a)* the Financial Services Authority and *(b)* his Department has had in the transfer of depositors' money from Icelandic banks; what procedures have been followed; and what safeguards there are for depositors' money. [274690]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 May 2009]:* Heritable and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (KSF) are UK-based banking subsidiaries of the two Icelandic banks Landsbanki and Kaupthing. On 7 and 8 October 2008 respectively, the FSA concluded that Heritable and KSF no longer met their threshold conditions, and were in default for the purposes of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The Treasury, using powers under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act 2008, transferred certain accounts of Heritable primarily used by retail depositors and KSF's Edge retail deposit business to ING Direct. The Government also committed to paying out in full FSCS eligible depositors whose accounts were not transferred. The remainders of Heritage's and KSF's businesses were subsequently placed into administration following due legal process.

On 8 October, the FSA announced that the UK-based branch of Landsbanki was in default for the purposes of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). To maintain financial stability and protect retail depositors, the Chancellor announced that all retail depositors with the Icesave brand of the branch would receive their money in full.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what terms and conditions are imposed upon those accepting assistance under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme; and if he will arrange for these terms and conditions to be published on the Business Link website. [266163]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

Information on the Enterprise Finance Guarantee including the eligibility criteria and the premium rate, together with other help for businesses under the Real Help package are already published on the Businesslink.gov website. Specific terms and conditions are a matter for each participating lender in discussion with each borrower and as such are confidential to those parties.

Government Departments: Hotels

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instruct the Office of Government Commerce to review its policy of using only certain travel companies to procure business-use hotel accommodation. [277915]

Angela Eagle: Buying Solutions manage two framework agreements awarded to a total of six travel management companies (TMC's) following competitive tender action in accordance with EU procurement legislation.

Public sector customers are not obliged to use these TMC's if they have alternative EU compliance arrangements.

Lighthouse Group: Network Data

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations from members of the public he has received on the role of HBOS in the proposed purchase by Lighthouse Group of Network Data Ltd. [274632]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor receives a wide range of representations on issues relating to banks in receipt of public funds.

As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Official Hospitality

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission has spent on hotel accommodation for officials in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last three years. [277891]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 3 June 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me for reply.

Spend on hotel accommodation in the last four years was as below:

	£
2008-09	1,225,108
2007-08	1,128,668
2006-07	1,107,810
2005-06	568,431

The figures include costs for dinner, bed and breakfast.

In 2006 the Audit Commission introduced a new contractual arrangement for hotel accommodation with a booking agent. Prior to the new contract, hotel accommodation was booked directly with a wide range of hotels across the UK. Therefore the figure shown for 2005/06 only represents the expenditure with our contracted supplier.

The Audit Commission employs approximately 2,000 staff. Due to the nature of our work and the geographical spread of our client base, overnight accommodation is a business requirement.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Audit Commission's travel policy states that officials requiring hotel accommodation should use 3 or 4 star hotels. [277892]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 3 June 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me for reply.

Up to May 2009, the policy stated a minimum 3 star standard should be used, to ensure that room service was available, as this was felt to be important for the security of our staff working away from home. The Audit Commission changed its policy on hotel accommodation in May 2009. The new policy removed the minimum 3 star standard and replaced this with a maximum overnight rate depending upon the location of the hotel:

	£
London, SW1	160.00
Bristol and London (excluding SW1)	130.00
Regions (excluding Bristol and London)	115.00

The maximum overnight rates include bed, breakfast and a £25 limit for an evening meal.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Building Regulations

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to launch the consultation on proposed changes to Part L of the Building Regulations; and if she will make a statement. [277864]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department expects to publish a consultation document on proposed changes to parts L (Conservation of Fuel and Power) and F (Means of Ventilation) of the Building Regulations shortly.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost to her Department and local authorities of council tax rebilling was in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [277242]

John Healey: There is no cost to the Department as a result of council tax rebilling.

The Department does not provide estimates of rebilling costs to local authorities;

actual costs for previous years were as follows:

2007-08: £0

2008-09: £1.22 per household for Lincolnshire police authority[1]

[1] Based on figures provided by the authority.

Council Tax: Debt Collection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on the use of bailiffs to collect council tax; and what assessment she has made of the implications for local authorities' use of bailiffs of her Department's plans to allow councils to transfer council tax debts from magistrates to county courts. [277027]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government's predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister jointly published with the Government Operational Research Service a Council Tax Collection Good Practice Report in 2004. The report looks at ways of sharing good practice among practitioners, in order to promote continuous improvement in service delivery and collection. Annex D of the report covers the use of bailiffs.

The report is published on Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/goodprac.pdf

I am working with the Ministry of Justice to look at new ways to collect and enforce council tax, in particular by allowing councils to transfer council tax debts from magistrates to county courts.

Council Tax: Surrey

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 51-52WS, on local government, what estimate she has made of the rate of Band D council tax to be charged in each billing authority in Surrey in 2009-10 following the capping and rebilling of Surrey

Police Authority; and what estimate she has made of the change in the average Band D council tax bill in England in 2009-10 following the re-billing. [277819]

John Healey: Subject to the House of Commons approving an order to cap Surrey police authority, the band D council tax charged by the police authority to each billing authority in Surrey in 2009-10 will be a maximum of £193.92. There would be no change to the 2009-10 average band D council tax level in England as published by my Department on 26 March.

Empty Property

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of domestic properties in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England were vacant in each of the last five years. [277778]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally for North-West Cambridgeshire. Figures are available at local authority district level.

The following table shows the proportion of vacant properties in Cambridgeshire, the east of England and England in each of the last five years.

Total vacant dwellings as a percentage of total dwelling stock

Percentage

	As at				
Region	*1 November 2004*	*10 October 2005*	*9 October 2006*	*8 October 2007*	*6 October 2008*
Cambridge	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.1	2.9
East Cambridgeshire	3.2	2.4	2.7	2.7	3.1
Fenland	3.5	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.1
Huntingdonshire	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.7
Peterborough UA	2.5	2.5	2.9	2.9	3.3
South Cambridgeshire	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7
Cambridgeshire	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.8	3.0
East of England	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.0
England	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5

Source:
Council Taxbase and Council Taxbase Supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities.

Fire Services: Pensions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what actuarial assumptions are to be used in the actuarial valuations of the *(a)* Firefighters Pension Scheme and *(b)* New Firefighters Pension Scheme. [277014]

John Healey: The Government Actuary is carrying out an actuarial valuation of the firefighters' pension arrangements in England. The report will set out the assumptions and other factors considered before making recommendations about both schemes. When the report is published later this year, a copy will be placed in the Library.

Government Office Network: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget is of the *(a)* Government Office Network, *(b)* Regions and Communities Group and *(c)* Communities Group for (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) 2011-12. [277881]

Mr. Khan: The net budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follows:

£000

	2009/10	*2010/11*
Government offices—administration	106,624	101,329
Government Offices—resource	0	0
Government Offices—capital	2,860	2,860
Regions & Communities Group—administration	2,337	—
Regions & Communities Group—resource	19,100	20,100
Regions & Communities Group—capital	70,000	70,000
Communities Group—administration	19,035	—
Communities Group—resource	325,815	296,528
Communities Group—capital	143,696	180,361

Group administration budgets for 2010-11 are subject to decision by the Department's board as part of the Department's internal business planning process.

CSR07 allocated budgets for the period to 2010-11. Budgets beyond 2010-11 have yet to be agreed with the Treasury.

Home Information Packs

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of her Department's expenditure on administration of its policy on home information packs in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [277869]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to my reply given on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 723W. Programme resources for 2011-12 have not yet been allocated.

Housing: Construction

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to ensure that the planned number of new homes are built during the next 12 months. [276632]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Housing Green Paper, "Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable", published in July 2007, set out the Government's ambition to increase housing supply, in order to bring greater stability and affordability to the housing market.

In the past year, a range of measures have been announced to support the construction industry and boost housing supply. These measures included: bringing forward £550 million of funding from 2010-11 to maintain the supply of new social rented dwellings; £400 million to invest in new social housing over the 2009-11 two year period; an additional £775 million to support construction activities, including regeneration, decent homes and social rented housing over the next two years; and housing market renewal pathfinders were awarded £311 million for 2009-10 to support a range of activities, including new build.

Last month, the 2009 Budget announced a further £1 billion of additional resources for housing which included a £400 million kickstart housing delivery fund to restart stalled construction activity across the country. This should help developers retain jobs and skills, and boost the supply of homes over the next year—benefiting first time buyers and social tenants. The Budget also allocated £100 million over two years to enable local authorities to deliver new social housing on land they already own that can be developed only by them.

In order to compliment this investment, the Government are taking a range of measures to ensure that the housing sector grows strongly over the longer term. These measures will: ensure sufficient land for development, through housing allocations in local plans and further action on public sector land, supported by a responsive and efficient planning system; deliver effective and coordinated infrastructure provision; promote a strong and diverse house building sector; continue to ensure the increased long-term supply of social and affordable housing; and, ensure a proportionate approach to land-value capture and cumulative regulation. The Government will report on progress at the 2009 pre-Budget report.

Housing: Low Incomes

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment was made of the likely level of demand for MyChoice HomeBuy before its introduction; and what mechanism was established for the allocation of funding to that scheme. [277888]

Margaret Beckett: The MyChoice HomeBuy product was introduced, along with OwnHome (a similar product from different providers) at the beginning of the 2008 to 2011 National Affordable Housing programme, after a competition for new shared equity products. Both MyChoice HomeBuy and OwnHome are open market HomeBuy products. The likely level of demand for open market HomeBuy in the 2008 to 2011 programme was assessed with regard to the levels of demand for previous open market homebuy products.

We do not set specific budgets for HomeBuy products in advance, to allow flexibility within the Affordable Housing programme. The cost of any of the schemes is reviewed on a regular basis within the context of the overall programme. In managing the programme, the Government seek to strike the right balance between this scheme and other programmes such as the provision of new homes and properties for social rent.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding allocated to the MyChoice HomeBuy scheme in 2008-09 was not spent. [277889]

Margaret Beckett: We do not set a specific budget for the MyChoice HomeBuy product in advance, to allow flexibility within the Affordable Housing Programme. However, the HCA made up to £133 million available to MyChoice HomeBuy providers in 2008-09 of which provisional figures show that £115 million was spent by 31 March 2009. Funding for the scheme is reviewed on a regular basis within the context of the overall programme.

The HCA subsequently made £17 million available in 2009-10 to fund MyChoice HomeBuy purchases for those applicants who had been issued with authority to proceed prior to the end of the 2008-09 financial year but had not completed their purchase.

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for assistance under the MyChoice HomeBuy scheme had been made as at 1 May 2009; how many had been declined; and for what reasons in each case. [277890]

Margaret Beckett: Applicants can, and usually do, apply for several HomeBuy schemes, not just MyChoice HomeBuy. A total of 53,919 applications were received for MyChoice HomeBuy, in the period from April 2008—when the scheme was launched—to the end of April 2009. During that time period, 29,148 applicants in total were approved to look for a property. Information on applications declined is not collected centrally.

Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for which indicators other than those in the national indicator set her Department routinely collects information from local authorities. [276970]

John Healey: The national indicator set is the only set of performance indicators for which the Government collects information from local authorities. With regards to other information collected by my Department, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 965-66W.

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations of Sir Michael Lyons' 2007 report on local government finance *(a)* have been implemented and *(b)* are planned to be implemented. [277204]

John Healey: The Government responded to the Lyons Inquiry on local government in the Budget report published on 21 March 2007 and in a press notice issued by the Department on the same day. A copy of the press notice is in the Library.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each local authority has received *(a)* in cash terms and *(b)* per capita in (i) planning delivery grant and (ii) housing and planning delivery grant in each year of each scheme. [277241]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data regarding the amounts received by each local planning authority for Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) for the period 2003-08 and Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) for 2008-09 together with a per capita calculation for the total of PDG and a separate one for HPDG has been placed in the Library.

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much on average local authorities' employer contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme are as a percentage of an individual's salary. [276921]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally. However, general information about the level of contributions paid into the Local Government Pension Scheme by employers and employees can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm

The most recent information, for 2007-08, was published on 15 October 2008.

Local Government: Political Impartiality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable her Department has set for bringing forward legislative proposals to change the Widdicombe rules on restrictions on political activity by local authority officials. [277034]

John Healey: Provisions to amend the Widdicombe rules by removing the salary bar link to politically restricted posts were introduced by Government amendment to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill during its Third Reading on 29 April in the other place.

Mayors: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions her Department has had on the establishment of a Mayor for Greater Manchester. [277502]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) gave him on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 144W.

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department's methodology for its annual calculation to adjust the business rate multiplier in line with the Retail Prices Index (RPI) the previous September allows for a reduction in the multiplier when RPI is negative; and if she will make a statement. [277350]

John Healey: Calculation of the multiplier is determined by a formula set out in schedule 7 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with which representative bodies her Department had discussions on the business rate deferral scheme *(a)* in the three months prior to and *(b)* following the announcement of the scheme. [277468]

John Healey: Ministers and officials from the Department regularly meet representatives of the business community and local government to discuss business rates matters. Since the announcement of the business rates deferral scheme officials have in particular held discussions on its implementation and administration.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans next to review the rateable value limits in *(a)* England and *(b)* London; and if she will make a statement. [278075]

John Healey: Various rateable value thresholds are used in the non-domestic rating system to target rate relief at smaller properties. We will consider all rateable value thresholds in light of the 2010 revaluation over the course of the rest of this year.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 453-54W, on non-domestic rates: Greater London, what the title of the substantive Valuation Office Agency document was from which the section on the sub-location concept was taken. [277122]

John Healey: The title of the document is: Review of sub location codes.

Non-Domestic Rates: Microgeneration

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has prepared an impact assessment in respect of changes to the business rate liability of microgeneration equipment to be applied during the 2010 rates revaluation. [276966]

John Healey: The 2010 revaluation is undertaken under section 52 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. As we are not introducing a new policy proposal, scheme or new legislation, under the guidance published by BERR on their website, the revaluation does not require an impact assessment.

The purpose of revaluation is to ensure that the liability of a property reflects the market values on 1 April 2008.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit the retrospective application of business rates to firms in ports. [276926]

John Healey: The policy underpinning the requirement for backdating where appropriate is to ensure a rateable property pays its fair amount of rates from the point the property should be rated to ensure all business are treated fairly.

The rates system must be equitable to all and any solution to a situation as in the ports must not confer a disadvantage upon other ratepayers.

The statutory framework of business rates gives Ministers no discretion to remove a liability to taxation, and we do not believe it would be in the interests of fair competition or in line with the principles of taxation for such a liability to be waived.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the potential change in non-port rateable values in Milford Haven Port Authority as a result of the Valuation Office Agency's review of ports rates liability. [277015]

John Healey: The Milford Haven assessment is currently subject to legal opinion, and therefore the VOA consider it inappropriate to estimate liability at this point in time.

Non-Domestic Rates: Religious Buildings

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 382W, on the Church of Scientology, what *(a)* criteria and *(b)* methodology the Valuation Office Agency uses to determine whether a faith community is deemed to be eligible for a place of worship business rate exemption. [277024]

John Healey: Schedule 5 para. 11(1) to the Local Government Act 1988 provides the criteria for exemption from non-domestic rating for places of public religious worship. Premises occupied by a faith community will be exempt providing:

It is a place of religious worship

The worship is public

The premises are certified as a place of religious worship by the Registrar General or belong to the Church of England or the Church in Wales.

Valuation officers' methodology is to follow the above criteria.

Regeneration: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 454W, on regeneration, what steps her Department has taken to guard against repetition of such financial irregularities. [277236]

John Healey: The 2007-13 round of the European regional development fund is being administered by regional development agencies. In setting up these programmes we have:

Worked with RDAs to agree a comprehensive set of instructions and guidelines that clarify at the start of the programme round what is required to ensure compliance with the regulations and to maintain a high level of financial control. These materials include specific reference to the weaknesses identified in the previous programme round.

Commissioned and carried out independent scrutiny of the management and financial control systems used by RDAs and CLG to ensure compliance with programme requirements.

Established an independent audit authority that will carry out a programme of audits of expenditure throughout the lifetime of these ERDF programmes.

Established comprehensive governance arrangements that provide for ongoing scrutiny of risk and a ready means of escalating and resolving any emerging problems in programme delivery, financial control and management.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has allocated to each regional development agency for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [277880]

Mr. Khan: The Department of Communities and Local Government does not directly allocate funding to the regional development agencies. Regional development agencies are instead funded through a single programme, which is administered by their sponsor Department, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

My Department is, however, one of six contributory Departments to this single programme, with a planned contribution of £1.585 billion during 2009-10.

For information, total departmental allocations to the regional development agencies' single programme for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are set out in the following table.

	Total single programme allocation (£)	
Regional development agency	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Advantage West Midlands	295,165,000	212,003,000
East of England Development Agency	135,740,000	108,115,000
East Midlands Development Agency	160,322,000	131,304,000
London Development Agency	374,963,000	325,521,000
North West Development Agency	397,410,000	304,572,000
One North East	249,226,000	194,845,000
South East England Development Agency	165,097,000	132,562,000
South West Development Agency	157,463,000	124,380,000
Yorkshire Forward	317,475,000	228,160,000
Total	2,252,861,000	1,761,662,000

It should be noted that allocations for 2010-11 are currently indicative.

Single programme allocations for 2011-12 are yet to be determined, falling outside the current 2008 to 2011 spending review settlement.

Valuation Office: Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 400-2W, on Valuation Office, if she will place in the Library a copy of a Billing Authority Report submitted via the e-BAR facility. [276915]

John Healey: Billing Authorities send information to the Valuation Office Agency. This information, required to assist in maintaining valuation and rating lists, is called a billing authority report or BAR. Some Billing Authorities submit their BARs electronically using the e-BAR facility. As the e-BAR is electronic, and can be in different formats, it is not possible to provide a typical e-BAR.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 400-2W, on Valuation Office, whether any Billing Authority Report submitted via the e-BAR facility has included information derived from building control data. [276916]

John Healey: The sources of information vary from Billing Authority to Billing Authority. The Building Control Department will be a source for some Billing Authorities.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 400-2W, on Valuation Office, what the differences are between the Valuebill interface and the e-BAR facility. [276917]

John Healey: The various data exchanges between billing authorities, the Valuation Office Agency, and the National Land and Property Gazetteer covered by the former Valuebill project can be regarded as the Valuebill interface. The e-BAR facility is a development, based on a Valuebill schema, to enable Billing Authorities to send electronic reports to VOA.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* family and friend carers and *(b)* family and friends foster carers are providing full-time care for a child because of (i) parental drug and alcohol misuse, (ii) the death of a parent, (iii) parental imprisonment, (iv) domestic violence and (v) other reasons. [270225]

Beverley Hughes: Data on the reasons for a child being provided with full-time care by their relative or friend are not collected centrally. This is the case both for family and friends carers who are approved foster carers and for those who are not.

Children: Databases

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent schools have indicated that they will not take part in the ContactPoint database. [272310]

Beverley Hughes: We are not aware nationally of any individual schools in either *(a)* the maintained or *(b)* independent school sectors that have indicated that they will not take part in ContactPoint.

Class Sizes: Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many key stage 1 children were in classes of *(a)* over 20, *(b)* over 25 and *(c)* over 30 pupils in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [276512]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the following table.

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number of Key Stage 1 children in classes[2,3]. Coverage: England. Year: January 2009 (provisional)

Class size	*Number of pupils*
All classes	1,396,830
Over 20 pupils	1,293,370
Over 25 pupils	997,370
Over 30 pupils[4]	29,200

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] One teacher classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.

[3] Includes reception classes.

[4] Includes all pupils in large classes, including those with excepted activity.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to reduce the time taken for the compilation of reports by the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service in Barnsley. [276879]

Beverley Hughes: Where courts in Barnsley have requested a CAFCASS report they have been completed, on average, within seventeen weeks in 2008-09. CAFCASS have agreed with the courts in Barnsley to reduce the time taken to deal with these requests to 12 weeks from the 1 April 2009.

CAFCASS are looking to achieve this reduction by working closely with the judiciary in the area to implement their service improvement plan. The plan focuses on a sustained systematic approach of restructuring the way in which they deliver services in South Yorkshire.

GCSE: Plymouth

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children resident in Plymouth, Sutton achieved five or more A* to C grades at GCSE in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [276681]

Jim Knight: Consistent information about pupil achievement based on residency is only available for years 2002/03 onwards. The requested information for 2002/03 and 2007/08 is provided in the table.

Percentage of pupils[1] resident in Plymouth, Sutton constituency achieving five or more A-C grades at GCSE and equivalents, 2002/03[2] and 2007/08[3]*

	Percentage
2002/03	54.7
2007/08	67.3

[1] Pupils attending maintained schools only.

[2] Based on pupils aged 15 with a valid postcode at the start of the academic year and includes GCSEs and GNVQs.

[3] Based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 with a valid postcode in that academic year and includes GCSEs and equivalents.

Source:

National Pupil Database (final data).

Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of gifted and talented pupils stayed in full-time education beyond the age of 16 years in each of the last three years. [268494]

Jim Knight: The information requested is provided in the table. This shows the number and percentage of young people identified in maintained schools as being gifted and talented that stayed on in full-time education beyond 16. The data relates to the cohorts of young people who completed compulsory education at the end of academic years 2005-06 and 2006-07. The staying on rate represents those who were identified as being in full-time education in the year following their completion of compulsory education, but only covers participation in the maintained sector. Data are not available for earlier cohorts.

Number and percentage of gifted and talented children that stayed on in full-time education beyond 16, England

Year completed compulsory education	*Total number of gifted and talented children aged 15*	*Number of gifted and talented children that stayed on in full-time education beyond 16*	*Percentage of gifted and talented children that stayed on in full- time education beyond 16*
2005-06	64,000	58,600	92
2006-07	81,300	74,500	92

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

Source:

Matched Administrative Data

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in non-selective maintained schools achieved *(a)* level 7 and *(b)* level 8 in Key Stage 3 examinations in (i) English, (ii) mathematics and (iii) science in (A) 1997, (B) 2002, (C) 2005 and (D) the latest year for which figures are available. [262267]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown as follows:

	1997	*2002*	*2005*	*2007*
Eligible pupils				
English	521,887	575,941	588,020	563,761
Mathematics	523,935	577,784	587,690	564,046
Science	524,076	578,483	588,374	564,688
Number of pupils achieving KS3 Level 7				
English	22,491	49,176	44,189	36,895
Mathematics	48,755	85,807	109,326	113,119
Science	28,237	47,981	56,506	73,456
Number of pupils achieving KS3 Level 8				
English	2,817	4,249	—	—
Mathematics	4,154	15,928	22,996	35,810
Science	1,413	2,914	—	—

Note:

Includes pupils for whom admission policy information was unknown or for which information was not applicable.

From 2003, Level 8 can only be achieved in mathematics following the end of extension papers at KS3.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people will be employed to work on the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit. [274283]

Beverley Hughes: Pages 7-11 of 'The protection of children in England: action plan--The Government's response to Lord Laming', published on 6 May, included an explanation of the steps to be taken to establish the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit. This makes clear that the unit, which will be operational in July, will be hosted within the Department for Children, Schools and Families and will include expert staff from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and Department of Health as well as local agencies and the voluntary sector. Regional Government office staff will also work as part of the unit. The precise numbers of staff are in the process of being determined.

Primary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in England educate five to seven year olds; and if he will make a statement. [276883]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows.

	Phase of education			
Type of establishment	*Middle deemed primary*	*Middle deemed secondary*	*Primary*	*Grand total*
Community	20	3	9,307	9,330
Foundation	—	—	326	326
Voluntary aided	8	—	3,550	3,558
Voluntary controlled	4	—	2,392	2,396
Grand total	32	3	15,575	15,610

Note:

This answer includes schools whose age range covers the following:

Middle deemed primary includes ages 3-16, 4-12, and 5-12.

Middle deemed secondary includes ages 3-18 and 4 to 18 years old.

Primary includes all ages from 2 to 11 years old.

Source:

EduBase 2

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the likely number of pupils in Key Stage 1 in each of the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [276886]

Jim Knight: The Department does not make projections for pupil numbers by key stages directly, but by age instead. Key stage 1 would normally include those pupils aged five and six as at 31 August in the previous academic year.

The Department's current projections for the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) pupils aged five and six in maintained primary and other schools in England are shown as follows:

Projected numbers of FTE pupils[1, 2] aged five and six, projections as at January each year

	Projected (thousands)								
Age at previous 31 August	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
Total pupils aged 5 and 6	1,153	1,193	1,222	1,248	1,291	1,322	1,335	1,353	1,366
Maintained primary schools	1,084	1,121	1,149	1,174	1,213	1,241	1,253	1,270	1,283
Other schools[3]	69	72	74	75	78	80	81	82	83

[1] Full-time equivalents, counting each part-time pupil as 0.5. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest one thousand.

[2] Experience has shown that totals in maintained primary schools are usually within ±0.2 per cent. for the first projected year. There is less certainty in the longer term. Factors which contribute to differences between projections and outturn data include the underlying population trends, participation among under fives and variations of proportions attending independent schools. Projections are increasing in uncertainty.

[3] Includes numbers of pupils in academies, special schools, pupil referral units and independent schools.

Updated projections for the number of pupils in maintained primary and other schools are due to be published in the Departmental Annual Report on 8 June 2009. These will take into account the provisional School Census figures for January 2009. Projections are not shown beyond 2017 because of the increasing degree of uncertainty over time.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average expenditure per school pupil in Plymouth was in the latest period for which figures are available. [276360]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following table:

School based expenditure per pupil in local authority maintained schools for 2007-08

	LA maintained				
	Nursery schools	*Primary schools*	*Secondary schools*	*Special schools*	*All schools*
England	7,880	3,580	4,620	18,650	4,220
Plymouth	6,860	3,400	4,510	16,790	4,160

Notes:

1. School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure.
2. Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending maintained establishments within each sector and are drawn from the DCSF School Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
3. Figures are as reported by local authorities as at 29 May 2009 and are rounded to the nearest £10. 2007-08 data remains provisional and is subject to change by the local authority.
4. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 29 May 2009.

Schools: Biometrics

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of the use of biometrics in schools; and if he will make a statement. [277064]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected; it is a school level decision to implement biometric systems.

Schools: Capital Investment

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many additional jobs his Department expects to be created by bringing forward its capital expenditure for school building projects in the next 12 months. [249118]

Jim Knight: A tentative estimate of the number of jobs that will be created in 2009-10 is 10,000.

Schools: Complaints

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints have been made about schools to Ofsted by parents in each of the last two years; how many of those were investigated; and if he will make a statement. [273417]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 7 May 2009]:* This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 May 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

Under section 11A of the Education Act 2005, as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Ofsted may consider whether to investigate certain complaints, known as qualifying complaints, made about schools. Table A shows the number of complaints about schools made to Ofsted in the last two years and how many of these qualified for further investigation. Ofsted may consider a complaint about a school from any person, not just a registered parent. The data in Table A may include complaints from persons other than parents.

To qualify, the subject of the complaint must fall within one of the areas covered by Ofsted's school inspection remit, as defined by section 5 of the Education Act 2005 and the relevant regulations. These are:

The quality of the education provided in the school

How far the education provided in the school meets the needs of the range of pupils at the school

The educational standards achieved in the school

The quality of the leadership in and management of the school, including whether the financial resources made available to the school are managed effectively

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils at the school

The contribution made by the school to the well-being of those pupils

From September 2008, the contribution made by the school to community cohesion.

In addition, a complaint must be made in writing and must not fall within the remit of another statutory complaints process. Furthermore, the complainant must normally have already exhausted local complaints procedures. Ofsted may waive this particular requirement, but will normally only do so in exceptional circumstances. This is because it is appropriate that a school and/or the relevant local authority have the opportunity to put right a complaint before it is referred to Ofsted.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Complaints about schools made to Ofsted, April 2007 to March 2009

Year	*Total written complaints about schools*	*Those concerning safeguarding issues*[1]	*Those qualifying for consideration under Ofsted's powers of investigation*[2]	*Those retained for the lead inspector for the next scheduled inspection*[3]	*Those leading to an immediate inspection*	*Those leading to the next scheduled inspection being brought forward*
27 April 2007 to 4 April 2008	1,196	18	142	86	1	1
4 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	1,345	15	15	6	1	1

[1] These complaints concerned safeguarding issues and were sent to Ofsted's safeguarding teams for further consideration.

[2] The main reasons for complaints not qualifying are that complainants have either failed to exhaust local complaints procedures, or the complaint does not fall within the areas covered by Ofsted's school inspection remit. Ofsted responds to such complaints with advice on resolving their concerns through more appropriate authorities.

[3] Ofsted considers all qualifying complaints. In the first instance, Ofsted may investigate by contacting the school or local authority, as well as consider the school's self-evaluation form, performance data, and their last inspection report. At this point, we are normally able to determine what action should be taken, which may lead to an inspection of the school or the information being retained for the next scheduled inspection. Alternatively, we may further investigate the issue raised by the complaint, which may include requiring the school or local authority to provide information relevant to the complaint or to hold a meeting of parents. We may also formally refer the complaint to the school or local authority.

Schools: Inspections

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of inspections of *(a)* schools and *(b)* nurseries and other pre-school provision was in each of the last 12 years. [274583]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 20 May 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted is a non-ministerial government department and its funding is provided by HM Treasury. Table A shows Ofsted's total expenditure related to the inspection of schools, and the inspection and regulation of nurseries and other pre-school provision.

The financial data are derived from Ofsted's audited accounts, which reflect as consistently as possible the cost of inspection and regulation. The accounts do not separately distinguish the cost of inspecting nurseries and other pre-school provision, from the cost of regulating these services. The full cost of inspection and regulation activity is provided and includes direct, indirect and overhead costs.

Please note that while the inspection of schools has been a major element of Ofsted's work for the last 12 years, information included in Ofsted's audited accounts does not separately identify this cost until financial year 2003-04. The cost of school inspection has, therefore, only been provided from this point onwards. Similarly, Ofsted assumed responsibility for early years inspection and regulation from financial year 2001-02, and the cost of delivering our programme of early years inspection and regulation has been derived from Ofsted's summary accounts from this point onwards.

As outlined above, Ofsted has undergone considerable change since the financial year 1997-98. From 1997-98 to 2000-01, Ofsted was primarily responsible for the inspection of schools, local education authorities and teacher training. From 2001-02, Ofsted's remit expanded to include early years inspection and regulation. Since April 2007, Ofsted has also had responsibility for the inspection and regulation of care for children and young people, and the inspection of education and training for learners of all ages. Over the same period, improvements to the way we deliver inspection and regulation have enabled Ofsted to make substantial savings. These changes have affected the costs of regulation and inspection and year on year comparison of these costs. Further explanatory notes accompany the table below.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Ofsted's expenditure on inspection of schools and inspection and regulation of nurseries and other pre-school provision

£ million

Year	*Total cost of school inspection*[1]	*Total cost of inspection and regulation of nurseries and other pre-school provision*
1997-98	n/a	0.0
1998-99	n/a	0.0
1999-2000	n/a	0.0
2000-01	n/a	0.0
2001-02	n/a	48.5
2002-03	n/a	80.1
2003-04	106.6	79.6
2004-05[2]	101.0	92.9
2005-06	106.1	88.4
2006-07[3]	100.6	61.4
2007-08[4]	77.7	63.1

[1] The total cost of school inspection includes the costs of inspecting 'nursery schools', that is maintained schools for children of nursery age, inspected under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as section 5). Children of nursery age may also attend childcare provision, within the categories of 'childcare on domestic premises' and 'childcare on non-domestic premises', such as a private day nursery. The costs of inspecting and regulating these providers are included in the totals relating to nurseries and other pre-school provision.

[2] In the financial year 2005-06, Ofsted used an improved method for calculating total costs of inspection and regulation. The 2004-05 figures above are the recalculated figures based on this new method.

[3] Between the financial years 2004-05 and 2006-07 Ofsted established a new regional structure, rationalising the support for inspections within three regional offices. These changes led to substantial reduction in the cost of inspection and regulation activity.

[4] Ofsted recently performed a more detailed, comprehensive and robust analysis of Ofsted's 2007-08 financial accounts to identify the cost of the inspection of schools, and the inspection and regulation of nurseries and pre-school provision. We have used information from this analysis to complete the table above. In the absence of such an analysis for previous years, it is not possible to make a consistent comparison between years.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average length of time was between the identification of a school for *(a)* rebuilding and *(b)* refurbishment and the completion of the project in the last five years in respect of (i) academies, (ii) primary schools, (iii) schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme and (iv) other secondary schools. [271771]

Jim Knight: Academies built through the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) will follow a timeline similar to the average for that programme. The time taken for academies built through the traditional procurement model varies depending on the nature of the project. We do not hold precise data centrally and it would exceed the cost threshold to compile.

The average procurement time to completion for new or replacement schools in BSF has been 176 weeks. This includes the time in procuring authorities' private sector partners, Local Education Partnerships, each of which is responsible for rebuilding or refurbishing a package of several schools. Partnerships for Schools expect times to reduce, following changes in the procurement process.

The BSF Procurement Review, the outcome of a major consultation exercise with stakeholders including local authorities, contractors, industry groups and the design community, promises savings of up to £250 million across the national programme.

It will also make this part of the BSF process more timely, streamlined and efficient, reducing procurement times by up to two months.

The Department does not hold information on procurement times for other secondary schools, nor for primary schools.

Schools: Standards

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools were given a rating of *(a)* inadequate and *(b)* satisfactory for behaviour in their last Ofsted inspection; and what the date of each such inspection was. [274587]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools were rated *(a)* inadequate in their latest Ofsted inspection and either inadequate or satisfactory in the inspection before that and *(b)* satisfactory in their latest inspection and either inadequate or satisfactory in the inspection before that. [274589]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils in each local authority area attended *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools which were in special measures in each of the last five years. [274901]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert will be replying and a copy of her letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools have been in special measures *(a)* twice, *(b)* three times and *(c)* more than three times in the last 12 years. [275808]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HMCI Christine Gilbert will be replying and a copy of her letter will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 22 May 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Tables A and B show which schools have been placed in special measures twice and three times. Between 1 September 1997 and 31 December 2008,1,940 maintained schools were placed in special measures once, and 67 schools were placed in special measures twice. One school, Malvern Hills Primary School, was placed in special measures three times. This school has now closed. No school has been placed in special measures more than three times.

Of the 67 schools that required special measures a second time, five were found to require special measures at their re-inspection without ever being removed from this category. Technically, they remained in special measures. They are included at the foot of Table B. Data for the spring term 2009 have not yet been published and are not included in these figures.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Schools placed in special measures twice between 1 Sep 1997 and 31 December 2008

URN	*School*	*LA*	*Open/closed indicator*
130340	Monteagle Primary School	Barking and Dagenham	Open
103309	Primrose Hill Community School	Birmingham	Open
101526	Chalkhill Primary School	Brent	Open
132008	Burwood School	Bromley	Open
110492	Quarrendon School	Buckinghamshire	Open
107532	Mount Pellon Junior and Infant School	Calderdale	Open
110857	St. Andrew's CofE Community VA Junior School	Cambridgeshire	Closed

Table A: Schools placed in special measures twice between 1 Sep 1997 and 31 December 2008

URN	*School*	*LA*	*Open/closed indicator*
109747	Oak Bank School	Central Bedfordshire	Open
109139	Badocks Wood Primary School	City of Bristol	Open
112390	The Morton School	Cumbria	Closed
112558	Langley Mill Junior School	Derbyshire	Open
112937	Deincourt Community School	Derbyshire	Open
113373	Bridgerule Church of England Primary School	Devon	Open
106781	North Doncaster Technology College	Doncaster	Open
115604	Finlay Community School	Gloucestershire	Closed
115817	Cam House School	Gloucestershire	Open
100240	Sebright School	Hackney	Open
116233	Park Primary School	Hampshire	Open
115995	Shepherds Spring Junior School	Hampshire	Closed
130325	Waite End Primary School	Hampshire	Open
115838	The Bridge Education Centre	Hampshire	Open
102449	Abbotsfield School	Hillingdon	Open
102557	Syon Park School	Hounslow	Closed
118259	Northcourt Primary School	Kent	Closed
118724	St. Barnabas CofE VA Primary School	Kent	Open
118925	Montgomery School	Kent	Closed
107759	Fartown High School	Kirklees	Open
119998	Queensmead Junior School	Leicester City	Closed
120087	Beaumont Lodge Primary School	Leicester City	Open
120687	Hartsholme Primary School	Lincolnshire	Open
104595	Childwall Valley Primary School	Liverpool	Closed
109425	Orchard Centre	Luton	Open
105548	Saviour CofE Primary School	Manchester	Open
102669	St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School	Merton	Open
110532	The Radcliffe School	Milton Keynes	Open
108520	Gosforth Junior High School	Newcastle Upon Tyne	Open
120906	Fairstead Community Primary School	Norfolk	Open
121211	Costessey High School	Norfolk	Open
117953	Strand Junior School	North East Lincolnshire	Closed
122154	The Orchard School	Northamptonshire	Closed
121928	Sunnyside Primary School	Northamptonshire	Open
122325	West Sleekburn Middle School	Northumberland	Open
122438	St. Ann's Well Junior School	Nottingham City	Closed
123083	Thameside Primary School	Oxfordshire	Open
109777	Battle Primary School	Reading	Open
105011	New Park High School	Salford	Open
103914	Burnt Tree Primary School	Sandwell	Open
110077	Langleywood School	Slough	Closed
100797	John Donne Primary School	Southwark	Open
100806	Peckham Rye Primary School	Southwark	Closed
124854	Kirkley Middle School	Suffolk	Open
124976	St. Francis, Westborough Community Primary	Surrey	Closed
114900	Chadwell St. Mary Primary School	Thurrock	Open
100887	Alice Model Nursery School	Tower Hamlets	Open
104165	Beechdale Primary School	Walsall	Closed
103040	Church Mead Junior School	Waltham Forest	Closed
130873	Acorns Primary School	Warwickshire	Open
126489	Ludgershall Castle Primary School	Wiltshire	Open
116751	Worcester, Dines Green Primary School	Worcestershire	Open
116771	Worcester, Elbury Mount Primary School	Worcestershire	Closed
131491	Redgrave School	Worcestershire	Closed
107364	Rhodesway School	Bradford	Open
107228	Usher Street	Bradford	Closed
108473	Montagu Community Full Service School	Newcastle Upon Tyne	Closed
133267	Sherwood Hall School and Sixth Form College	Nottinghamshire	Closed
125272	Thomas Knyvett College	Surrey	Open

Table B: Schools placed in special measures three times between 1 September 1997 and 31 December 2008

URN	*School*	*LA*	*Open/closed indicator*
116710	Malvern Hills Primary School	Worcestershire	Closed

Social Services: Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance is issued by his Department to local authority children's services in relation to the provision of accommodation and support services for young persons leaving care who are placed outside the borough with care responsibility. [271339]

Beverley Hughes: The framework for planning looked after children in and leaving care is established in very detailed regulations and guidance setting out the requirements established by the Children Act 1989 and the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. This framework is intended to ensure that there is proper and thorough planning on behalf of each child wherever they are placed. Every child and young person must have a "care plan". This becomes their pathway plan from age 16 when local authorities must begin to prepare them for the time when they will no longer be looked after. Where young people have been placed outside of their local area, the pathway planning process must identify whether they will continue to remain in the area where they are placed into adulthood or whether they will return to the area of their responsible authority.

Government have published the National Protocol on Inter-Authority Arrangements for Care Leavers as a model to assist in managing joint working arrangements between local authorities where a care leaver who is the responsibility of one authority is a resident in another authority.

This protocol can be accessed on the 'Children Leaving Care' page of the Every Child Matters website.

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 received Royal Assent in the last session of Parliament. Section 8 of this Act sets out the factors that local authorities must consider when they make a placement for children in their care. This clarifies that as far as reasonably practicable authorities must attempt to secure placements that are within their area and close to children's homes. The priority given to these factors will depend on a detailed assessment of the circumstances in each individual case.

Later this year we will be consulting on planned revision of the Children Act statutory guidance which will include revision of leaving care guidance. This revision provides us with the opportunity to provide more information about how we expect local authorities to plan for looked after children and care leavers who have been placed away from their responsible authority.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1317W, on special educational need, what the name and local authority area of each of the 10 schools is. [271832]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table.

Non-maintained special schools: Schools with more than 100 pupils[1]—as at January 2008—England

URN	*Local authority*	*School name*
105137	Wirral	West Kirby Residential School
113044	Derby	Royal School for The Deaf (Derby)
116636	Hampshire	Treloar School
133653	East Sussex	St. Mary's Wrestwood Children's Trust
114677	Brighton and Hove	St. John's School (Brighton)
113652	Devon	West of England School
119030	Kent	Royal School for Deaf Children and Westgate College for Deaf People
108657	North Tyneside	Percy Hedley School
125453	Surrey	National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy, St. Piers School
110180	West Berkshire	Mary Hare Grammar School

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families at how many mainstream schools attended by pupils with statements of special educational need no such pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year from 1997 to 2007. [271474]

Jim Knight: The available information can be found in the following table.

Number of mainstream schools attended by pupils with statements of special educational needs where no such pupils achieved five A to C grades at GCSE*

	Number
2008	26
2007	38
2006	57
2005	67
2004	100

Notes:
1. Figures prior to 2004 have not been provided as these are not available on a comparable basis.
2. These figures are for pupils in maintained mainstream schools that have more than 10 pupils with statements of special educational needs.
3. Figures for 2008 include two closed schools that are published in the Achievement and Attainment Tables.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Sure Start Programme: First Aid

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to ensure that all Sure Start children's centres offer first aid training to new parents. [272495]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities, working with NHS and Job Centre Plus partners, are responsible for planning and delivering services in Sure Start children's centres. Parenting and family support services, including support for new parents, are tailored to respond to needs in the local area. Our Sure Start children's centres practice guidance makes clear that children's centres should be offering a range of interventions to all parents to help reduce the risk of accidents. Examples include: advising parents on the stages of infant development and the implications for accident and injury prevention; and offering education awareness campaigns on accident and injury avoidance.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers have entered teacher training under the Transition to Teaching programme since its inception; how much his Department has spent on the programme to date; and if he will make a statement. [275038]

Jim Knight: Transition to Teaching is currently supporting 225 participants with more people joining the programme every week. These people are being supported to explore the possibility of training as teachers, have applied for places, gained places or begun training. It is supported by 282 companies and that number is expected to rise. Since the programme was launched in July 2008 the Training and Development Agency for Schools using grant in aid from the Department has spent £1,228,812 on it. This includes initial set-up and launch costs and costs incurred supporting participants.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Employment Level

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people were unemployed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 2007; [277459]

(2) how many people were in employment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 2007; [277460]

(3) what the average unemployment rate of the working age population in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK was in each year since 2007; [277461]

(4) how many *(a)* males, *(b)* females and *(c)* single parents were (i) in employment and (ii) unemployed in (A) Jarrow constituency, (B) South Tyneside, (C) the North East and (D) the UK in each year since 1997. [277462]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated May 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people were unemployed in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 2007; how many people were in employment in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 2007; what the average unemployment rate of the working age population in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK has been in each year since 2007; and how many (a) males, (b) females and (c) single parents were in (i) in employment and (ii) unemployed in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK has been in each year since 1997. (277459,277460,277461 & 277462).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). Estimates of total unemployment for unitary and local authorities are produced from a statistical model, following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16+, resident in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK, who were unemployed in each year since 2007. The estimates for UK and the North East have been compiled from the APS to be consistent with those for Jarrow constituency, and will therefore differ from the unemployment figures published in the Labour Market First Release. Estimates for South Tyneside are compiled from model based estimates.

Table 2 shows the number of people aged 16+, resident in the requested geographies who were employed in each year since 2007. The estimates for UK and the North East have been compiled from the APS to be consistent with those for Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside and will therefore differ from the unemployment figures published in the Labour Market First Release.

Table 3 shows the average unemployment rate, for persons of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59), resident in the requested geographies, who were unemployed in each year since 2007. Unemployment rates published by ONS have been compiled from the APS and are based on the percentage of the economically active population. Estimates for South Tyneside are compiled from Model based estimates.

Table 4 shows the number of lone parents below state pension age with dependent children in employment and unemployed in the requested geographies for the calendar years 2004 to 2007. Estimates are derived from the APS household datasets and are only available for January to December for the years 2004 to 2007. Estimates for 2008 will be available from summer 2009.

Table 5 shows the number of people aged 16+, males and females resident in the requested geographies who were employed in each year since 2007. The estimates for UK and the North East have also been compiled from the APS to be consistent with those for Jarrow constituency and South Tyneside and will therefore differ from the unemployment figures published in the Labour Market First Release National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment and unemployment are available from the NOMIS website at: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed[1] resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK in each year since 2007

Thousand

12 months ending:	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside[2]*	*North East*	*UK*
September 2007	3	6	80	1,603
September 2008[3]	****—	***6	*86	*1,643

— = Data is unreliable for practical purposes.

[1] Levels of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Model Based Estimates.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey and Model Based Estimates

Table 2: Number of persons employed[1] resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK in each year since 2007

Thousand

12 months ending:	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*UK*
September 2007	37	64	1,162	29,042
September 2008[2]	**36	*66	*1,161	*29,330

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Statistical Robustness

* Estimates are considered precise.

** Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Table 3: Average unemployment rates[1] for people of working age resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK in each year since 2007

Percentage

12 months ending:	*Jarrow*	*South Tyneside[2]*	*North East*	*UK*
September 2007	6.5	8.2	6.5	5.4
September 2008	6.3	7.7	7.0	5.5

[1] Number of unemployed people of working age as a percentage of the economically active population. Working age is defined as being: males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

[2] Model based estimates.

Source:

Annual Population Survey and Model Based Estimates

Table 4: Number of lone parents[1] with dependent children[2] in employment and unemployed in selected areas of UK, 2004 to 2007, January to December of each year

Thousand

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*UK*
In employment				

Table 4: Number of lone parents[1] with dependent children[2] in employment and unemployed in selected areas of UK, 2004 to 2007: January to December of each year

Thousand

	Jarrow	*South Tyneside*	*North East*	*UK*
2004	—	3	47	976
2005	—	3	52	1,016
2006	—	2	49	1,023
2007[3]	****—	***3	**45	*1,031
Unemployed				
2004	—	—	6	98
2005	—	—	4	93
2006	—	—	6	115
2007[3]	****—	****—	***6	*111

— = Data is unreliable for practical purposes.

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[2] Dependent children are children aged under 16 and those 16 to 18 who are never-married and in full-time education.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to be within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Note:

Zeros represent less than 500.

Source:

Annual Population Survey Household data sets

Table 5: Number of persons employed[1] by gender resident in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside, the North East and the UK in each year since 1997

Thousand

	Jarrow		*South Tyneside*		*North East*		*UK*	
12 months ending:	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
February 1997	17	16	28	27	491	438	11,456	10,768
February 1998	14	15	25	27	481	436	11,780	10,939
February 1999	16	16	27	26	468	452	12,005	11,140
February 2000	17	17	25	26	476	460	12,203	11,318
February 2001	22	16	33	27	573	500	14,841	12,493
February 2002	20	18	33	31	569	506	14,986	12,643
February 2003	18	18	31	31	574	508	15,050	12,738
February 2004	19	17	32	29	579	512	15,209	12,947
March 2005	18	17	32	30	597	528	15,304	13,013
March 2006	19	18	34	30	602	535	15,437	13,178
March 2007	19	16	33	29	614	540	15,621	13,291
September 2007	20	17	34	30	618	545	15,691	13,351
March 2008	20	17	35	32	619	545	15,816	13,428
September 2008[2]	***18	***18	***34	***32	*617	*544	*15,848	*13,502

[1] Levels of employment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality as follows.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to be within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 4 June 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Employment Agencies

David Taylor: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many House of Commons staff have been recruited through employment agencies; and if he will make a statement. [277949]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons does not fill any of its permanent vacancies with agency employed staff. Staff employed by agencies are used to cover temporary or interim vacancies. In 2008-09 expenditure on temporary agency staff equated to just over 4 per cent. of overall staffing costs.

Members: Allowances

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the information on hon. Members' expenses which has been leaked was obtained by the unauthorised *(a)* electronic and *(b)* physical copying of material. [illegible]

Nick Harvey: The matter is subject to an internal inquiry. I will write to the hon. Member when it has reached conclusions.

Simon Hughes: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission when the Commission expects publication by the House of information relating to hon. Members' allowances between 2004 and 2008; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Nick Harvey: Preparation for publication of Members' allowances claims and supporting documentation from April 2004 until March 2008 is nearing completion. Final checks are being carried out, and any appeals by Members about the precise scope of what is included in the publication scheme are due to be heard and determined by the Committee on Members' Allowances during the course of next week. Subject to testing the public internet access arrangements, publication will follow as soon as possible after that.

TRANSPORT

Network Rail: Directors

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to appoint a special director for Network Rail. [illegible]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has no plans to appoint a special director to the board of Network Rail.

Transport: Finance

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much each English shire county has received in transport grant in each of the last five years. [278030]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's website contains details relating to the allocation of capital transport grant to local transport authorities including the shire counties at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/capital/

This funding is not ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Leader of the House what arrangements she plans to make for consultation on the Government's draft legislative programme for the 2009-10 Session; and if she will make a statement. [277952]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House of Commons, will make an announcement shortly.

Members and Peers: Expenses

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House if she will discuss with the Leader of the House of Lords the establishment of a Joint Committee to consider co-ordinated publication on the parliamentary intranet and website of details of the expenses of individual hon. Members and Peers. [277951]

Chris Bryant: The Government will bring forward legislation to establish a new, independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to oversee the expenses regimes of both Houses. It will be open to the new Authority to co-ordinate the publication of information about the expenses of Members of both Houses.

Written Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House what steps she is taking to ensure the completeness of answers to Parliamentary Questions for written answer. [277953]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House of Commons and I are fully committed to making sure that Ministers give faithful, honest, complete and timely answers to written parliamentary questions. We keep the matter under continuous review.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1083W, on bank services, for what reasons people with funds held in Icelandic banks were not alerted to the circumstances which prompted the Financial Services Authority to intensify its supervision of retail deposit-taking by Icelandic banks at the beginning of 2008. [270426]

Ian Pearson: The authorities acted responsibly throughout and, for very good reasons, have a policy of not commenting publicly on individual institutions. In line with usual practice, the authorities did not make people aware of these circumstances. To have done so in the case of the Icelandic banks could have caused precisely the consequences that the authorities were seeking to avoid.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the likely effects on levels of *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* revenue which would accrue to the Exchequer arising from a change in rates of motorcycle vehicle excise duty to the same carbon dioxide emission scales as private cars; [278003]

(2) what recent consideration he has given to the merits of setting vehicle excise duty bands for motorcycles on the same carbon dioxide emissions scale as that applying to private cars. [278004]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available.

Carbon dioxide based vehicle excise duty for cars rests on data produced through the European-wide system of vehicle type approval. This system does not produce carbon dioxide data for motorcycles. Vehicle excise duty for motorcycles is instead set on an engine capacity basis.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs offices were open to receive post on Saturday 31 January 2009. [277779]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs Enquiry Centres were closed on Saturday 31 January 2009. Post found and opened on Monday 2 February 2009 was treated as received on Friday 30 January 2009.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the first meeting of the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change to take place. [277394]

Jane Kennedy: The Government and the devolved Administrations recently announced the appointment of Lord John Krebs as the Chair of the Adaptation Sub-Committee to the Committee on Climate Change. As the Chair of the Sub-Committee, Lord Krebs will also sit on the main committee. The UK Government and the devolved Administrations are in the process of appointing five to eight board members to serve on the sub-committee. We hope to have the sub-committee in place by the end of June and the first meeting should take place as soon as possible after that.

Deer

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department has issued to local authorities on the control of wild deer. [278026]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has not issued any advice on deer specifically for local authorities. For those involved in deer management, advice on the sustainable management of deer is available from the Deer Initiative. Some local authorities will have received advice from the Deer Initiative on local deer management issues relevant to their area.

Food Supply

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial and other support his Department has made available to encourage the development of local food hubs; how many such food hubs are in existence; and at which locations. [276892]

Jane Kennedy: I recognise the benefits of well run local food hubs in helping to make it easier for local food producers to access markets, including public sector customers. Under the Regional Food Strategy both DEFRA and the regional development agencies have provided support for a number of initiatives, including food hubs, aimed at facilitating access to market for local food producers.

Funding to encourage the development of local food hubs in England has come from a number of sources:

The additional £5 million over five years (2003-04 to 2007-08) which DEFRA made available to Food from Britain (FFB) to support the quality regional food sector;

The regional development agencies' (RDA) single pot funding;

The Rural Development Programme; and

The private sector.

Examples of food hub-related activities which have received public funding include:

Under the previous England Rural Development Programme a 50 per cent. Rural Enterprise Scheme grant of £228,500 which helped fund the conversion of existing traditional buildings into Plumgarths Farm Shop and Lakelands Food Park in Cumbria;

The Ludlow Food Centre which has received funding (£159,000) from the West Midlands RDA; and

A study being funded by the South East of England, East of England and London RDAs examining the feasibility of using food hubs to serve London with local and regional produce.

In addition to the above, other examples of food hub facilities can be found in Bedfordshire (Woburn Country Foods), Essex (Ashlyns Organics); Shropshire (Weston Park); Nottinghamshire (Southglade Food Park) and

Cumbria (Redhills near Penrith). In the south-west, the development of food distribution hubs is being driven by local demand through the supermarkets and food manufacturers without the need for public sector intervention.

Finally, DEFRA has also helped fund, via FFB, the research by Westley Consulting Ltd. and John Geldard (Plumgarths Farm) which led to the 'Supplying Local Food to Mainstream Customers' report published in August 2008. A copy of this report, which recognised the role that well run food hubs could play but was cautious about recommending public investment in establishing more hubs, can be found at the Westley Consulting website.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister of State plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 30 March 2009 on the dumping of industrial waste in Roston. [278095]

Jane Kennedy: I have now responded to the right hon. Member's letter.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 4 March 2009 on charges on compost. [278096]

Jane Kennedy: I responded to the right hon. Member's letter on 3 June.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department has received any representations on whether the reference to fuels manufactured from waste in the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 Schedule 1, Part 2, Section 1.1 reflects the Court of Appeal ruling in the OSS Group v. Environment Agency case; and if he will make a statement; [275101]

(2) whether his Department has received any representations on whether the reference to fuels manufactured from waste in the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 Schedule 1, Part 2, Section 1.1 means that used cooling oil should be treated as a virgin oil if it has met the Carnwath test as set by the Environment Agency. [275102]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA officials have received correspondence from representatives of companies whose business involves the processing of waste to produce fuels about issues arising from the Court of Appeal ruling in the case of OSS Group *v.* Environment Agency. Officials at the Environment Agency have also held meetings with the companies concerned to discuss these issues. The Government's response to the amendment of the Environmental Permitting (England Wales) Regulations 2007 in the light of the Court's decision is still being considered.

JUSTICE

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department have been suspended from duty in each month since January 2007. [274190]

Mr. Straw: In the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), excluding the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), central records of suspension exist from April 2007 only.

The information for MoJ excluding NOMS is set out in the following table:

	Number of suspensions
2007	
April	6
May	2
June	4
July	5
August	4
September	5
October	5
November	0
December	5
2008	
January	5
February	2
March	18
April	1
May	3
June	5
July	3
August	0
September	3
October	0
November	1
December	0
2009	
January	3
February	2
March	0

These figures represent the number of new suspensions in each month; there is no cumulative element to the totals.

The National Offender Management Service does not hold the requested information centrally, and to obtain the information now would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the names and addresses were of each organisation that supplied goods and services to his Department in 2008-09, based on the purchase order data held in the Department's financial database. [276413]

Mr. Straw: The information requested will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The data provided have been sourced from two Enterprise Resource Planning Systems, one from the system covering the Courts, Tribunals, Former Department for Constitutional Affairs, and the other from the National Offender Management Service System. It is a complete list of suppliers against whom a purchase order was raised in the 2008-09 financial year across each system.

Monarchy: Succession

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice to which Commonwealth governments the Government have indicated a wish to discuss reform of male-preference primogeniture for the line of succession for the Crown; and if he will make a statement. [273805]

Mr. Straw: Any changes to the rules of succession would have to be agreed to by all Commonwealth countries of which the Queen is head of state. Discussions have started and are continuing but it would be inappropriate to release details at this stage.

Restorative Justice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the rate of reoffending among those who have completed high-visibility community payback schemes. [278102]

Mr. Hanson: Reoffending rates for those who have completed high-visibility community payback schemes are unavailable as the data source used to produce reoffending rates does not differentiate between those on the scheme, and those who are not.

Reoffending rates are available for those who serve both community and suspended sentence orders with an unpaid work requirement; however the latest available data are for those who commenced such a sentence between 1 January and 31 March 2007. The high-visibility community payback scheme did not commence until December 2008, therefore reoffending rates for the period covered by the scheme will not be available until data for the 2009 cohort are published in 2011.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Brass Bands: Finance

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Big Lottery Fund awarded to brass bands in each of the last five years. [275822]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund has been able to supply the following figures for the value of relevant grants across the UK in the last five years, including grants made under the Awards for All joint scheme:

	Total value of grants (£)
2004-05	81,314
2005-06	151,542
2006-07	176,572
2007-08	109,663
2008-09	281,721

Football: Drugs

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the National Anti-Doping Organisation expects the governing authorities for football to have introduced anti-doping procedures compliant with its requirements; and if he will make a statement. [277268]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* UK Sport, the UK's National Anti-doping Organisation, is currently working with the Football Association (FA) to ensure that their anti-doping rules and procedures are compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA) and accompanying international standards.

We understand that the FA Council will be considering this when it meets over the summer to agree their rules for the 2009-10 season. Government expect the FA to ensure that their anti-doping rules and procedures are fully compliant with WADA's code and standards.

National Anti-Doping Organisation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of progress towards a fully independent National Anti-Doping Organisation; and if he will make a statement. [277270]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* I met recently with UK Sport, who are leading on the project to establish the new stand alone National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO), UK Anti-Doping.

At this meeting, UK Sport reported that work to establish UK Anti-Doping is progressing well, with the project on-schedule to meet vesting, as proposed, by the end of the year.

National Anti-Doping Organisation: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what budget has been allocated to the National Anti-Doping Organisation in each year to 2012. [277269]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* For 2009-10, the budget for the National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO), currently delivered by UK Sport, is approximately £7 million, including £1.8 million that has been budgeted for transition costs toward the establishment of the new stand alone NADO, named UK Anti-Doping.

The budget for 2010-11, the first full year of operation for UK Anti-Doping, is approximately £7.2 million.

Funding for subsequent years will be finalised in light of the Department's forthcoming comprehensive spending review settlement.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the £36 million allocated to the Sport Unlimited scheme has been spent; and how many of the 4,000 planned taster sessions have taken place. [277134]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England has advised that in the first year of the three year Sport Unlimited scheme, £10,487,000 has been spent from the year 1 funding allocation of £10,500,000.

The Sport Unlimited scheme will enable 900,000 more 11 to 19-year-olds to become involved in a range of sports. Sport England will publish end of year results on year 1 of Sport Unlimited later on this month, which will include information about the number of individuals participating in the scheme against year 1 targets. Sport England has undertaken to write to the hon. Member with a copy of their report.

The number of taster sessions that have taken place is not recorded centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart on the arrest and trial of Aung San Suu Kyi. [277407]

Bill Rammell: The Japanese Government released a statement on 15 May 2009 expressing their deep concern at the arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi. The Japanese Foreign Minister, Hirofumi Nakasone, raised Aung San Suu Kyi's detention with his Burmese counterpart on 25 May 2009. We have raised her current trial and ongoing detention with the Japanese at official level. Japan, like the UK, is a major contributor of humanitarian aid to Burma and we remain in regular contact concerning the current situation both at the UN Security Council and via the UN Secretary-General's Group of Friends of Burma.

Most recently, I spoke with the Japanese Foreign Minister on 25 May 2009 in Vietnam. I also discussed Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest and the situation in Burma with Asian and European Ministers at the Asia-Europe Meeting in Hanoi on 25-26 May 2009 and at the EU-ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh on 27-28 May 2009.

Employment Conditions Abroad

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has paid Employment Conditions Abroad in each year since the inception of the contract; and what the future monetary value of any outstanding contracts is. [275460]

Gillian Merron: We do not hold figures for spending on this contract before 2004. To recalculate them would incur disproportionate cost. The cost of the contract to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office each year since then has been:

	Cost (£)
2004	72,632.61
2005	76,750.99
2006	78,472.37
2007	83,425.00
2008	89,299.87

Our contract with Employment Conditions Abroad is ongoing. We anticipate the cost of the contract and their services to be approximately £84,525 in 2009. Prices have been frozen at 2008's rates.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the expansion of settlements in the West Bank; and if he will make a statement. [277207]

David Miliband: Settlement expansion is a major obstacle to peace. We receive regular reports, including from the Israeli non-governmental organisation Peace Now. During 2008, Peace Now reported that the West Bank settler population increased 15,000 to 285,000. They report that there are plans for at least 73,300 additional housing units in the West Bank.

We are also deeply concerned about any changes to the character of East Jerusalem.

I raised this issue during my meeting with Foreign Minister Lieberman and in my statement to the UN Security Council on 11 May 2009. We will continue to press the Israeli Government to freeze all such activity.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has *(a)* deducted maintenance payments or arrears from bank accounts without going through a court, *(b)* issued a liability order under section 32M of the Child Support Act 1991, *(c)* applied to a court for (i) a disqualification from holding or obtaining a passport and (ii) a curfew and *(d)* recovered arrears from a deceased person's estate. [277682]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the child maintenance commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many times the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has (a) deducted maintenance payments or arrears from bank accounts without going through a court, (b) issued a Liability Order under section 32M of the Child Support Act 1991, (c) applied to a court for (i) a disqualification from holding or obtaining a passport and (ii) a curfew and (d) recovered arrears from a deceased person's estate. [277682]

The new enforcement powers required to allow the Commission to take the actions noted in your question are provided by the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 and are yet to be commenced. It is therefore not possible to provide the requested information at this time.

The Commission plans to commence the deduction order powers later this year to administratively remove funds from bank accounts, either periodically or in a lump sum, without going to court. A Deduction Order can be used in cases where a Deduction from Earnings Order cannot, for example, where the non-resident parent is self-employed.

No dates have yet been set to for implementation of Administrative Liability Orders, application to court for passport disqualification / curfew, or recovery of maintenance arrears from a deceased person's estate.

I am sorry on this occasion I can not be more helpful.

Cold Weather Payments: Hendon

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Hendon constituency received cold weather payments in 2008-09; and what the average amount received by such individuals was. [272299]

Kitty Ussher: Information on the number of pensioners in Hendon who received Cold Weather Payments in 2008-09 is not available. Hendon constituency is linked to Heathrow weather station which triggered once in 2008-09.

The amount received by eligible pensioners was £25 for each week that the cold weather payment was triggered in their area.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1980W, on Jobcentre Plus: manpower, if he will provide a description of each job in Jobcentre Plus in each pay grade. [249409]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*The full answer and the information requested appear at col. 1076W

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons jobseeker's allowance customers are required to ring 0845 telephone numbers to apply for jobs on Jobseeker Direct; what free alternatives there are to this service; and if he will make a statement. [271324]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 April 2009]:* The cost of calling 0845 numbers remains lower than many alternatives and, where it is possible, using BT landlines to call 0845 numbers is usually the lowest cost option. Research was carried out in 2008 to estimate the additional telephony charges DWP would incur by switching all existing 0845 services to 0800. We do not have a precise amount, but it is estimated that the switch would cost £10 million a year. In addition, there would be one-off transition costs of changing literature and raising awareness with staff, estimated at £1 million.

BT account for two-thirds of landline provision and our recent research shows that over 80 per cent of our customers contact us using landlines. We believe that 0845 numbers offer the best solution for the majority of our customers, including those wishing to apply for jobs with Jobseeker Direct. We understand that not everyone has access to a BT landline and if that is the case, we will always call back if asked to do so, so that we absorb the cost of the call.

If customers are unable to call Jobseeker Direct on the 0845 number, Jobcentre Plus offices have touch screen Jobpoint terminals installed for customers to use to access the same full range of vacancies available through Jobseeker Direct. In addition, all vacancies can be accessed online via the Directgov Jobseekers website and there are normally places available locally, such as libraries, which offer free internet access to jobseekers who are unable to get to a jobcentre or unable to access the internet in any other way.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 269W, on jobseeker's allowance, what *(a)* quantitative and *(b)* qualitative evaluation has been undertaken of (i) the extent to which signposting takes place and (ii) the outcomes it achieves; and if he will make a statement. [264352]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

*The full answer and the information requested appear at col. 1077W

Members: Correspondence

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Lichfield, *Official Report*, 11 May 2009, columns 545-6, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for Lichfield. [278031]

Mr. McNulty: I wrote to the hon. Member for Lichfield on 1 June 2009.

Pension Protection Fund

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the assets of the Pension Protection Fund have been in each year since 2005; what payments have been made from that fund in each such year; and what pension payments he expects to be made from that fund in each of the next six years. [276837]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is given in the following table.

£

Financial year	*PPF Assets*[1]	*PPF Payments*[2]
2005-06	141,430,000	[3]Nil
2006-07	835,514,000	1,402,000
2007-08	1,718,994,000	17,313,000
2008-09	[4]—	[4]—

[1] Total assets less current liabilities (not taking into account the long term liabilities of the fund).

[2] Compensation payments.

[3] No schemes transferred.

[4] The PPF is in the process of finalising this information for the annual report and accounts which will be published in the autumn.

Forecast information on expected pension compensation payments for the next six years is not available.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Coventry South of 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 865, on Rover Group: pensions, what estimate his Department made of the extra costs which would be imposed consequent on the changes to the operation of the Pension Protection Fund in respect of people who took early retirement before the relevant scheme entered that fund; and what assessment he made of the capacity of the Pension Protection Fund levy to meet those extra costs. [276895]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As at April 2008, the estimated cost of removing the 90 per cent. compensation limit and the compensation cap for the people who had taken early retirement before April 2005 in a scheme that had already been admitted into the Pension Protection Fund was around £4 million. That figure is based on the number of individuals affected at that time and does not reflect the costs in relation to early retirees in schemes which entered the PPF after April 2008 or those which may do so in the future as such information is not readily available. The pension protection levy is a matter for the board of the Pension Protection Fund, but any extra costs would be borne by levy payers.

The estimated costs are one factor in the Government's decision not to change the way in which the Pension Protection Fund treats early retirees. The second is equality of treatment between those people who receive PPF compensation. Removing the compensation limit and the cap for some individuals who were under scheme pension age at the time their pension scheme entered the Pension Protection Fund would introduce inequalities in treatment of individuals under normal pension age and lead to a two tier system. The 90 per cent. limit and the cap ensure consistent treatment based on the individual's age at the time their pension scheme enters the PPF. They ensure that people who are able to take early retirement are not placed in a more beneficial position than those who stay in employment.

Pensioners: Poverty

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners were estimated to be living in poverty in each English region in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007-08. [276265]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty.

Our public service agreement "Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life" includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), all measured after housing costs have been taken into account.

The estimated number of pensioners living below each of these low income thresholds by each English region in 1996-97 and 2007-08 are published in Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2007-08, a copy of which is available in the Library.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question 258770, on deprived areas funds, tabled on 20 February 2009. [265555]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1488W.

DEFENCE

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to adapt its activities to climate change in the last two years. [277646]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD is involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which brings together and drives forward work on adapting to climate change across Government and the public sector in England. The programme was established in January 2008, and its work includes implementation of the adaptation aspects of the Climate Change Act, such as development of the national Climate Change Risk Assessment. Information about the programme and its work can be found at the following link:

www.defra.gov/adaptation.

As well as working together to tackle issues that affect all Departments and their work, each Government Department is adapting to climate change in its own operations and policies.

In December 2008 the Ministry of Defence published its climate change strategy, which sets out how the Department will adapt our policy planning, equipment and estate to a changing climate. Information about this can be found at the following link:

www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/73ED201B-CC03-41B4-8936-6BED49469D6E/0/ClimateChangeStrategy2009.pdf

The Department has ongoing research into climate change impacts around the globe to determine the potential security threats that may arise as a result of climate change and how our policies and force development may need to alter to reflect this.

For our estate, we are in the early phases of developing a Climate Impacts Risk Assessment Methodology that will consider the risks, incidents and geological effects associated with climate change events. We have begun the first pilot exercise for this model, the findings of which will be built into our long-term strategic development plans.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277726]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings arising from MOD climate change adaptation measures over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. Some of these benefits will accrue to Departments as cost-savings over the next three years, and in future years. The main rationale for MOD investment is to address climate risk and contribute to reduction of the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government is undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament in 2011.

The Government will also be publishing supplementary appraisal guidance this summer. This will help to ensure that adaptation measures are designed and implemented in a cost-effective manner.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency: Redundancies

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether a health and safety impact assessment has been conducted on the proposed programme of redundancies at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency; [277902]

(2) what involvement Ministers from his Department have had in the development of proposals to make posts redundant at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency; [277903]

(3) what the reasons are for the proposed programme of redundancies at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency; [277904]

(4) how many redundancies are planned at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency; and at which sites such redundancies are planned; [277905]

(5) what recent assessment he has made of the merits of the proposed programme of redundancies at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency on the defence supply chain; and if he will make a statement; [277906]

(6) if the Government will suspend the planned programme of redundancies at the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency for the period of the suspension of the Chief Operating Officer and the Financial Director. [277912]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Defence Storage and Distribution Agency's proposed planned programme of efficiencies is currently under review and I will write to the hon. Member once a decision has been made.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many people under the age of *(a)* 26, *(b)* 31, *(c)* 36 and *(d)* 41 years and resident in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK have been recruited to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service in the last five years; [277790]

(2) how many people resident in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK have been recruited to the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service in the last five years. [277791]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Royal Navy does not hold the information in the format requested. However, it is able to provide figures for the residency, which is taken from current address records, of those joining the Royal Fleet Auxiliary by postcodes for the North East. For this information the North East has been identified as incorporating the area from Berwick upon Tweed in the north, Barnards Castle in the west and Middlesbrough/Stockton/Darlington in the south.

Age on recruitment	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 26	71	68	34	58	20
26 to 31	19	25	17	15	10
32 to 36	15	15	12	14	7
37 to 41	16	27	11	17	14
Over 41	51	44	58	55	26
Overall UK total	172	179	132	159	77

Postcode DH	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 26	—	—	—	—	—
26 to 31	—	—	—	—	—
32 to 36	—	1	—	—	—
37 to 41	—	—	—	—	—
Over 41	1	—	—	—	—
Overall total	1	1	0	0	0

Postcode DL	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 26	—	—	1	—	—
26 to 31	—	—	—	—	—
32 to 36	—	—	—	—	—
37 to 41	—	—	—	—	—
Over 41	—	—	—	—	1
Overall total	0	0	1	0	1

Postcode NE	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 26	3	7	1	4	1
26 to 31	—	2	—	—	2
32 to 36	1	—	1	2	—
37 to 41	2	—	1	1	—
Over 41	—	1	4	3	1
Overall total	6	10	7	10	4

Postcode TD	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 26	—	—	—	—	—
26 to 31	—	—	—	—	—
32 to 36	—	—	—	—	—
37 to 41	—	—	—	—	—
Over 41	—	—	—	1	—
Overall total	0	0	0	1	0

Postcode TS	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Under 26	3	2	—	—	—
26 to 31	—	—	—	—	—
32 to 36	—	—	—	—	—
37 to 41	1	1	—	—	—

Postcode TS	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Over 41	—	—	—	1	1
Overall total	4	3	0	1	1

The figures for 2009 are provided up until 31 May.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1159W, on Somalia: piracy, whether all of the 45 individuals captured by Royal Navy forces were Somali nationals; and if he will make a statement. [273046]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The eight suspected pirates who were detained on 11 November 2008 and were subsequently transferred to the Kenyan authorities were Somali nationals.

We believe that the remaining 37 suspects, who have been questioned but not detained by Royal Naval personnel, were also Somali nationals. However, we cannot be sure that they were all Somali nationals as we are almost wholly reliant on their own statements to determine their nationality.

Trident Submarines

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the expenditure of £100 million to design a new missile compartment for the Vanguard replacement submarine announced in 2009 was included in the cost figures for the new submarine provided in the 2006 Defence White Paper. [277759]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The provision necessary to deliver the common missile compartment design requirement was included within the £11-14 billion estimate for the submarines contained in the 2006 White Paper (Cm 6994).

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Death: Epilepsy

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people *(a)* in total and *(b)* under the age of 25 have died with epilepsy being recorded as a contributing factor to the death in each of the last five years. [278133]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated June 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people (a) in total and (b) under the age of 25 have died with epilepsy being recorded as a contributing factor to the death in each of the last five years. (278133)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where epilepsy was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate for persons (a) of all ages and (b) under the age of 25 in England and Wales, for the years 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Number of deaths where epilepsy[1] was mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales[2], 2003-2007[3]

	Deaths (persons)	
Year	*All ages*	*Under 25*
2003	2,277	195
2004	2,100	179
2005	2,269	192
2006	2,251	194
2007	2,240	175

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes G40-G41. Deaths are included where epilepsy was recorded as the underlying cause of death or mentioned anywhere else on the death certificate.

[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental ICT

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps his Department is taking to increase the effectiveness of the use of information communications technology in *(a)* the Cabinet Office, *(b)* 10 Downing Street and *(c)* the civil service. [271089]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is improving the effectiveness of its use of information communications technology (ICT) by leading and participating in the Public Sector Flex framework. Public Sector Flex is an ICT shared service for the public sector offering a core desktop computing environment and a comprehensive range of additional ICT services. It will provide economies of scale and significant cost reductions, but with clear service quality standards.

The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of Cabinet Office and therefore follows its guidelines and policies in the use of ICT.

The Government's strategy for increasing the effectiveness of its use of technology more widely in the civil service is set out in "Transformational Government—Enabled by Technology" (Cm. 6683). The latest Annual Report is available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/cio/transformational_government/annual_report2007.aspx

and is available in the Libraries of the House.

Honours: Arts

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who the Chair of the Arts and Media Honours Committee is; on what date the appointment was made; and for how long a term. [273105]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 6 May 2009]:* The Chair of the Arts and Media Honours Committee is Lord Stevenson of Coddenham.

He was appointed in line with the recruitment process set out in the Government's White Paper 'Reform of the Honours System' (Cm 6479), which was a response to the Public Administration Select Committee's July 2004 Report 'A Matter of Honour: Reforming the Honours System' (HC212-I), and Sir Hayden Phillips' report on his review of the honours system.

The post of the Chair of the Arts and Media Honours Committee was advertised in the *Sunday Times* on 9 March 2008 and on the Public Appointments Unit's website. Lord Stevenson's application was considered by an interview panel which drew up a shortlist of candidates who were interviewed.

Lord Stevenson was appointed on 18 June 2008. The position is unpaid. The normal term of appointment is three years.

Minimum Wage: Darlington

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of people in Darlington constituency whose income rose following the introduction of the national minimum wage. [275750]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking for an estimate of the number of people in Darlington constituency whose income rose following the introduction of the national minimum wage. (275750)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage by Parliamentary Constituency are not available.

For the UK as a whole, the number of employee jobs paid below the 1999 national minimum wage in 1998 was 1,280 thousand (6 per cent), in 1999 it was estimated at 490 thousand jobs (2 per cent).

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Consumer Credit: Licensing

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with the Office of Fair Trading on renewal of consumer credit licences. [277507]

Mr. Thomas: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is responsible for the licensing of businesses who offer credit services. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform maintains a continuous dialogue with the OFT regarding all aspects of its regulatory business.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what activities have been undertaken by his Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277164]

Mr. Thomas: Euro Ministers are responsible for euro preparations in their department and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 19 January 2009 from the hon. Member for Northavon sent on behalf of Mr. I Hill of Wick on consumer protection. [269023]

Mr. Thomas: I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding. I answered the hon. Member's correspondence on 3 June.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when a reply will be sent to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 18 March 2009, transferred from the Treasury on 27 March, PO Ref: 1/69691/2009), about tax. [277102]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 14 May. I apologise for the delay which was caused by the current high volumes of correspondence.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to respond to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 17 March 2009 on problems with a business. [278094]

Mr. McFadden: I apologise to the right hon. Member for the delay in responding. The right hon. Member will receive a response shortly by the relevant Minister.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Tidal Impoundment

7. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the viability of tidal impoundment schemes for electricity generation. [277924]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Severn Tidal Power feasibility study led by my Department is investigating the potential for tidal impoundment in the Severn Estuary. Work so far suggests that three barrage and two lagoon options are potentially commercially and technically viable.

Estuaries: Electricity Generation

8. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which estuaries in Great Britain are being considered for possible electricity-generating barrages; and if he will make a statement. [277925]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Tidal power generation is under consideration by the Government in the Severn Estuary, and by private business consortia and community interest groups in a number of other estuaries including the Mersey, the Solway Firth and the Thames.

Policy Adaptation

9. **Miss Anne McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to discuss Government policy on adaptation to climate change. [277927]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and DECC officials meet regularly with colleagues in DEFRA to discuss a range of issues, including adapting to climate change.

It is essential that our Departments work closely together, so that our work on managing the impacts of climate change in the UK complements and reinforces our work to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Nuclear Waste Export

10. **Mr. John Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he next plans to review the effectiveness of the law on the export of nuclear waste; and if he will make a statement. [277928]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Current legislation, some put in place as recently as December, effectively controls the export of nuclear waste.

Carbon Capture

11. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the current efficacy of carbon capture technologies in coal-fired power stations. [277932]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are a few small scale CCS pilots operating successfully around the world already. The real issue now is large commercial-scale demonstration and we announced in April plans to support up to four such demonstration projects in the UK.

Offshore Wind Farms

12. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he next expects to meet representatives of renewable energy companies to discuss offshore wind farms. [277935]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC Ministers and officials regularly meet renewable energy companies. For example, I am scheduled to speak at the British Wind Energy Association's Offshore Wind conference on 24 June.

Coal-fired Power Stations

13. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his timetable [illegible] consultation on the framework for development [illegible] new coal-fired power stations; and if he will make a statement. [277937]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We plan to publish it soon.

Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the establishment of plants to demonstrate carbon capture and storage technology; and if he will make a statement. [277930]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In Budget 2009, the Government announced plans to accelerate the demonstration of carbon capture and storage. This included the announcement of £90 million of public funding for FEED studies. The competition is now moving to the next stage of invitation to negotiate.

In addition, the Chancellor announced proposals to expand our demonstration effort through a financial mechanism to support up to four demonstration projects, including the competition.

Climate Change: USA

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met his US counterpart to discuss climate change. [277931]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has held a number of discussions with senior figures in the US administration, including the Climate Change Envoy and the Secretary of Energy during his recent visit to Washington and during subsequent discussions at the US-chaired Major Economies Forum and in the margins of other multilateral meetings.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* BlackBerry devices and *(b)* mobile telephones have been lost by (i) Ministers, (ii) special advisers and (iii) civil servants in his Department in each year since its creation. [274474]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department uses BlackBerrys and mobile phones provided by both the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs. The detailed process of reallocating resources from these Departments has not yet been completed and losses of these devices will be included in any BERR or DEFRA returns.

Energy: Meters

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects smart meters to have been installed in every home in North West Leicestershire constituency. [277933]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Last year the Government announced their intention to mandate smart metering for all households. This will be a major project involving the installation of about 47 million smart meters. There is a substantial programme of work to complete to prepare for the roll-out, but we have set an indicative timetable for a completion of the roll-out by the end of 2020.

Warm Front Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints he has received about the operation of the Warm Front scheme in 2009. [277934]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has only recorded the number of complaints it has received about Warm Front since the beginning of April this year. Up until the end of May, DECC has received 275 expressions of dissatisfaction with the scheme.

Wind Power

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward measures to promote community ownership of wind energy generation. [277926]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government currently support community energy projects through the Renewables Obligations and the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

We have committed to feed-in tariffs for renewable energy generation, from April 2010.

Within the context of the Renewable Energy Strategy the Government are considering options for greater community involvement in the development of renewables projects.

Wind Power: Health Hazards

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effect of the operation of wind turbines on public health. [277936]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and his officials have had discussion with relevant Government Departments, including the Department of Health, on the content of the suite of energy National Policy Statements (NPSs) being introduced under the Planning Act 2008. This will include guidance on the effects of wind turbines.

The Government's Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 22 on renewable energy sets out the Government's policies for renewable energy, which planning authorities should have regard to when preparing local development documents and when taking planning decisions.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of asylum cases were brought to a conclusion, including appeals, *(a)* within two months, *(b)* between two and six months, *(c)* between six and 12 months and *(d)* over 12 months in each of the last five years. [242777]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: Data on conclusion performance by year of application are only available from the introduction of end-to-end processing of new asylum applications in April 2006. Prior to that date, performance targets were based on the length of time it took to reach an initial decision on an asylum application, rather than the length of time it took to conclude a case.

The PSA Delivery Agreement 3, Indicator 2 refers to the reduction in the time to conclusion of asylum application. The measure is to ensure a target percentage of cases should be resolved within six months as per the following:

35 per cent. by end of April 2007;

40 per cent. by end of December 2007;

60 per cent. by end of December 2008;

75 per cent. by end of December 2009;

90 per cent. by end of December 2011.

The method of reporting against the target is based on the performance of the specific monthly cohort of cases reaching six months. Hence all reporting is done against a six months timeframe. A cohort is specified as those new applications received between 1st and 31st of each month.

The conclusion measurement requires applications to be granted asylum or some form of leave to remain in the UK, allowed at appeal or removed within 182 days (six months) to be counted as concluded.

Performance against the targets has been published in National Statistics as follows:

38 per cent. of new applications received in September 2006 were concluded in six months by the end of by April 2007;

46 per cent. of new applications received in June 2007 were concluded in six months by the end of December 2007;

62 per cent. of new applications received in June 2008 were concluded in six months by the end of December 2008.

Published information is not available in relation to conclusion of applications in timescales other than six months.

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training UK Border Agency staff will receive as part of the introduction of e-borders. [269240]

Jacqui Smith: e-Borders is being rolled out in a phased approach. In advance of each phase, a dedicated team will work closely with the business to identify staff affected and assess any required learning needs.

A detailed Learning Needs Assessment, Strategy and Plan for Phase 1 has been delivered and accepted and the same approach for Phase 2 is in development and will be delivered in time for roll out has been designed to support delivery. Training will be delivered either directly from the e-Borders team, or via the "Train the Trainer" format, using existing agency trainers in the business.

Training includes the skills and knowledge required to use the system and the necessary behavioural changes to support this. Data handling and security of personal data will be an integral part of the training.

Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on crime: statistics, which classification each of these offences now belongs to. [263496]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is given in the table. Data under these new offence classifications will be presented for the first time in the annual crime statistics to be published in July 2009.

New offence classifications for offences previously classified as 'Less serious wounding'

Components of classification 8A 'Less serious wounding' prior to 1 April 2008	*New classifications with effect from 1 April 2008*	*Main offence sub-heading*
Wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm, with or without weapon. *Offences against the Person Act 1861 sec 20.*	Now split into:	
	Class 8F: Inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent.	Most serious violence against the person.
	Class 8G: Actual bodily harm and other injury.	Other violence against the person.
Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy. *Offences against the Person Act 1861 sec 24.*	Class 8K: Poisoning or female genital mutilation.	Other violence against the person.
Drivers injuring persons by furious driving. *Offences against the Person Act 1861 sec 35.*	Class 8G: Actual bodily harm and other injury.	Other violence against the person.
Assault on person preserving wreck. *Offences against the Person Act 1861 sec 37.*	Class 8G: Actual bodily harm and other injury.	Other violence against the person.
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm. *Offences against the Person Act 1861 sec 47.*	Class 8G: Actual bodily harm and other injury.	Other violence against the person.
Assault with intent to resist apprehension. *Offences against the Person Act 1861 sec 38.*	Class 8G: Actual bodily harm and other injury.	Other violence against the person.
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person. *Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 sec 3(1).*	Class 8G: Actual bodily harm and other injury.	Other violence against the person.
Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person. *Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 sec 3(3).*	Class 8G: Actual bodily harm and other injury.	Other violence against the person.
Excise, infibulate, aid, abet, counsel. *Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 sec 1(1), 2, 3 and 5.*	Class 8K: Poisoning or female genital mutilation.	Other violence against the person.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many educational institutions have received a rating of *(a)* A, *(b)* B and *(c)* F from the UK Border Agency under the new Tier 4 registration system. [271977]

Jacqui Smith: As of 29 April 2009, there have been 1,491 educational establishments awarded an A rating and 41 educational standards awarded a B rating under the Tier 4 Points Based System. There is no F Rating.

Internet: Data Protection

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirements there are for UK internet service providers wishing to use deep packet inspection targeted advertising systems to obtain consent from individual internet users prior to the collection of data relating to individuals. [277873]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) requires all data controllers, including internet services providers, to comply with the DPA and the data protection principles, when processing personal data. Personal data must not be processed unless, amongst other things, at least one of the conditions in Schedule 2 to the DPA is met. In the case of sensitive personal data, a condition in Schedule 3 must also be met. Consent is one condition for processing personal data, but it is not the only one, and whether consent is required for certain processing to take place will depend upon the particular circumstances.

Additionally the Internet Advertising Bureau has recently launched a code of practice which focuses on free and informed consent. Many internet services providers and key players have signed up to this, including Phorm, Google, Yahoo, Microsoft and AOL.

Anyone with concerns or complaints about the way in which personal data are being processed can refer the matter to the Information Commissioner, the independent regulator for the DPA, to investigate.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 4 December 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs. Shakeela Band. [250867]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter dated 20 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs. Kadididja Benguana Epse Benneddall. [263653]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 20 April 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 20 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. S. Tygier. [277530]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 28 May 2009.

Passports: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many attempted frauds in applications for passports have been detected by the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five years. [276827]

Jacqui Smith: The following table gives figures for attempted frauds detected in passport applications for each of the last five financial years.

The measurement of fraud is a complex issue. Historically IPS has counted as fraudulent only those cases which it has been possible to confirm absolutely as fraud. In recent years IPS has been engaged in a programme of work to better understand the nature and level of fraud within the passport application process and the success of existing measures in preventing fraud. This work has established that there were a significant number of cases in which IPS routinely prevents the issue of passports to fraudsters without actually recording those cases as fraudulent.

As a result, processes to provide a more accurate measure of IPS performance in countering fraud have been developed and refined. This is the reason for the significant step change in success that IPS is now able to report. IPS currently uses a tiered approach to recording fraudulent applications based on the level of likelihood of fraud. Fraud is now categorised as confirmed fraud, probable fraud and possible fraud.

IPS continues to undertake analysis to better understand the fraud perpetrated against it and to more accurately measure and record its performance in this complex but important area.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

	Number
2004-05	1,497
2005-06	6,497
2006-07	6,108
2007-08	9,382
2008-09	9,254

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports have been issued to individuals who were subsequently found to have used the identities of deceased British citizens to obtain those passports in each of the last five years. [276830]

Jacqui Smith: The following figures show the number of instances in which Identity and Passport Service has identified and recorded passports issued to individuals subsequently found to have used the identities of deceased British citizens in their applications:

	Number
2004-05	68
2005-06	64
2006-07	7
2007-08	3
2008-09	5

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

Police: Powers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for returning to custody sergeants the power to charge individuals in respect of all offences triable in magistrates' courts; and by what date this change will have been implemented nationally. [272984]

Jacqui Smith: We have no plans at this stage to reverse the policy of statutory charging.

A recent joint HMIC/HMCPSI inspection reported that statutory charging has delivered good quality final charging decisions by prosecutors, and had caused weak cases to be discontinued earlier, thereby saving time and cost for the police service, CPS and the courts.

We are working with Jan Berry, the independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate, and criminal justice partners to improve the custody and charging processes so that they deliver the best possible service to the police, prosecutors and the public.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer Question *(a)* 241867, on personal data, *(b)* 241874, on departmental procurement, *(c)* 241656, on visas, *(d)* 241601, on work permits, *(e)* 241609, on business visitors and *(f)* 241610, on business visitors tabled by the hon. Member for Beaconsfield on 4 December 2008. [264908]

Jacqui Smith: My hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration replied to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield on *(a)* 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 148W; *(b)* 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 163W; *(c)* 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 952-53W; *(d)* 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 952W and *(e)* 30 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 952W.

PRIME MINISTER

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Prime Minister who is responsible for determining the UK's strategy in Afghanistan. [278034]

The Prime Minister: I accept responsibility for UK strategy in Afghanistan. I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 869-73.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Prime Minister what recent advice he has received from the Chief of the Afghan staff regarding future troop levels in Afghanistan. [278025]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton) on 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 12.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275968]

Ann McKechin: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". Copies of "Public Bodies 2008" are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is available in the Office's annual report.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in each year since its creation. [275199]

Mr. Simon: Since its creation, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and its agencies have not made any payments of interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he has taken to reduce the level of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273566]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1065W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273927]

(2) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and (c) food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273928]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The total cost of travel incurred by my right hon. Friend and two officials in connection with his visits in Glasgow and the Cabinet meeting was £1,076.32.

There was no departmental expenditure on accommodation or food.

Children in Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were in residential care in each local authority area in England in each year since 2000. [276432]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows and has also been placed in the House Libraries.

Children in residential care at 31 March, by local authority[1,2,3,4]—years ending 31 March 2000 to 2008—coverage: England

Children in residential care—number

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
England	8,800	8,700	8,600	8,700	8,800	8,700	8,400	8,100	8,100
North East	330	330	360	460	410	410	370	360	360
Darlington	10	15	15	30	15	15	15	15	15
Durham	70	35	40	55	50	40	35	40	35
Gateshead	50	35	40	40	30	30	25	30	30
Hartlepool	30	15	15	15	10	10	10	10	10
Middlesbrough	40	35	40	45	20	25	25	25	25
Newcastle Upon Tyne	70	70	55	40	45	45	40	50	50
North Tyneside	45	45	50	40	30	30	30	35	30
Northumberland	60	30	30	50	55	65	40	40	40
Redcar and Cleveland	15	20	15	15	10	10	15	15	20

Children in residential care at 31 March, by local authority[1,2,3,4]—years ending 31 March 2000 to 2008—coverage: England

Children in residential care—number

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
South Tyneside	45	45	40	30	35	35	35	30	30
Stockton-on-Tees	40	30	35	40	30	30	25	20	25
Sunderland	95	95	90	70	80	70	70	60	50
North West	1,550	1,450	1,440	1,520	1,480	1,450	1,370	1,300	1,230
Blackburn with Darwen	55	40	40	15	25	25	20	20	25
Blackpool	40	15	30	35	45	40	45	40	40
Bolton	35	30	40	45	45	50	50	45	45
Bury	40	40	25	30	35	30	30	25	25
Cheshire	40	50	50	55	60	60	60	65	65
Cumbria	45	40	45	50	40	40	35	40	35
Halton	10	10	5	25	20	20	20	20	20
Knowsley	20	25	35	30	40	30	25	30	25
Lancashire	355	290	265	245	195	190	155	160	160
Liverpool	220	185	160	175	140	90	110	95	85
Manchester	135	125	155	200	235	265	270	230	225
Oldham	60	50	50	45	45	45	45	45	45
Rochdale	35	25	15	25	35	45	35	40	35
Salford	125	130	110	105	100	110	105	95	90
Sefton	65	75	85	120	85	70	65	60	55
St. Helens	55	45	60	45	50	45	45	30	25
Stockport	75	85	65	50	55	55	45	50	50
Tameside	20	25	30	40	40	40	30	30	25
Trafford	30	45	60	45	35	30	25	25	25
Warrington	15	20	15	10	15	15	15	10	10
Wigan	40	30	35	45	60	55	60	50	60
Wirral	35	60	65	95	95	110	75	65	50
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,080	930	950	880	850	810	800	780	780
Barnsley	65	45	55	55	45	40	40	25	30
Bradford	115	85	105	105	100	95	115	105	110
Calderdale	45	30	35	25	35	40	40	50	45
Doncaster	85	105	75	60	55	60	60	55	60
East Riding of Yorkshire	45	40	40	40	40	40	30	35	20
Kingston upon Hull, City of	125	95	105	85	65	55	55	50	50
Kirklees	70	55	65	65	45	40	40	50	55
Leeds	185	165	165	145	170	155	155	150	155
North East Lincolnshire	35	25	20	20	30	25	20	25	20
North Lincolnshire	30	30	25	25	35	25	25	20	20
North Yorkshire	20	20	40	45	45	50	45	45	40
Rotherham	35	40	60	45	25	35	30	30	30
Sheffield	130	100	95	95	90	95	95	85	85
Wakefield	55	60	35	45	45	40	35	35	35
York	35	35	30	25	20	20	10	10	15
East Midlands	520	480	470	490	470	490	480	490	500
Derby	70	60	65	60	50	55	55	55	55
Derbyshire	80	70	55	35	65	70	75	75	70
Leicester	40	30	15	35	55	45	40	45	45
Leicestershire	30	25	40	60	45	55	50	55	55
Lincolnshire	60	50	55	60	75	80	65	65	50
Northamptonshire	105	100	105	85	70	65	85	85	100
Nottingham	65	90	85	90	60	65	65	65	70
Nottinghamshire	60	55	50	55	50	55	45	45	50
Rutland	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	910	840	850	980	930	930	970	1,070	1,070
Birmingham	335	280	305	335	280	270	310	355	380
Coventry	40	45	50	55	55	60	65	80	75

Children in residential care at 31 March, by local authority[1,2,3,4]—years ending 31 March 2000 to 2008—coverage: England

Children in residential care—number

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Dudley	50	35	30	50	50	60	60	60	60
Herefordshire	30	30	25	20	10	10	15	20	20
Sandwell	30	40	50	55	55	55	65	55	40
Shropshire	35	25	30	45	25	30	35	35	35
Solihull	40	30	40	40	35	40	50	80	105
Staffordshire	100	85	75	115	105	90	100	100	95
Stoke-on-Trent	45	50	65	90	60	70	65	70	60
Telford and Wrekin	35	40	30	25	40	45	35	40	35
Walsall	45	60	60	45	65	60	45	45	40
Warwickshire	20	15	15	30	35	35	25	20	20
Wolverhampton	50	45	30	50	40	50	45	40	45
Worcestershire	60	65	45	45	60	60	60	60	60
East of England	750	740	770	780	780	770	770	700	700
Bedfordshire	65	60	60	55	85	70	60	45	35
Cambridgeshire	40	45	55	45	50	55	80	75	75
Essex	195	175	190	210	200	175	175	160	175
Hertfordshire	145	150	125	125	140	135	140	150	145
Luton	30	35	40	35	40	35	35	35	30
Norfolk	130	115	145	135	110	135	120	115	110
Peterborough	25	30	35	25	35	60	45	40	30
Southend-on-Sea	25	30	30	35	30	35	35	20	20
Suffolk	65	70	70	75	70	60	60	50	55
Thurrock	25	30	25	30	20	15	15	15	20
London	1,960	2,110	2,090	2,000	2,250	2,170	2,040	1,910	1,790
Inner London	1,070	1,130	1,070	990	1,150	1,170	1,060	940	790
Camden	50	65	60	60	65	70	60	50	50
City Of London	0	0	0	0	10	15	15	15	5
Hackney	60	60	65	60	50	45	50	50	35
Hammersmith and Fulham	45	50	60	50	85	80	65	65	65
Haringey	75	120	160	130	140	140	120	105	95
Islington	170	155	125	115	130	130	90	75	30
Kensington and Chelsea	65	65	45	50	35	35	55	40	45
Lambeth	255	250	200	145	125	145	180	120	75
Lewisham	100	135	120	140	175	150	110	105	95
Newham	40	50	60	85	90	80	60	80	80
Southward	95	60	55	75	75	85	95	90	85
Tower Hamlets	60	50	55	45	70	90	80	60	55
Wandsworth	35	45	35	10	35	25	20	35	35
Westminster	20	30	30	20	60	75	55	40	35
Outer London	890	980	1,010	1,010	1,100	990	980	970	1,000
Barking and Dagenham	60	90	105	85	30	25	30	30	35
Barnet	40	45	65	80	60	70	55	55	55
Bexley	25	20	15	25	10	15	15	10	10
Brent	55	60	90	70	85	100	110	95	75
Bromley	55	75	100	85	65	50	45	40	40
Croydon	50	60	75	100	160	115	150	225	300
Ealing	110	90	70	80	65	50	55	60	50
Enfield	65	65	50	60	60	30	20	25	15
Greenwich	60	80	90	100	105	80	70	70	70
Harrow	25	35	30	25	45	40	40	40	30
Havering	30	25	25	35	35	40	40	25	25
Hillingdon	90	65	60	45	70	60	65	45	50
Hounslow	70	65	50	50	70	75	65	50	70
Kingston upon Thames	35	25	30	25	20	25	30	30	15
Merton	20	30	10	15	25	25	20	15	20
Redbridge	25	25	25	20	30	30	25	45	30

Children in residential care at 31 March, by local authority[1 2 3 4]—years ending 31 March 2000 to 2008—coverage: England

Children in residential care—number

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Richmond upon Thames	15	40	40	30	25	25	20	15	10
Sutton	20	20	10	20	25	20	20	15	15
Waltham Forest	40	60	65	65	120	105	105	75	85
South East	920	990	990	910	990	1,030	990	930	1,100
Bracknell Forest	30	25	20	15	15	15	20	20	15
Brighton and Hove	25	45	30	40	35	35	40	45	40
Buckinghamshire	50	55	45	45	60	55	55	60	65
East Sussex	30	30	45	45	45	35	35	35	35
Hampshire	125	135	115	130	135	130	140	140	125
Isle of Wight	—	—	5	5	10	10	10	15	15
Kent	110	170	150	130	140	190	150	85	240
Medway Towns	20	30	30	30	20	15	15	15	20
Milton Keynes	45	30	35	35	30	35	40	40	40
Oxfordshire	70	70	60	55	60	60	45	45	50
Portsmouth	35	35	55	40	35	35	30	30	35
Reading	50	35	30	30	20	20	20	20	20
Slough	25	30	20	20	15	30	35	40	30
Southampton	20	15	30	20	30	35	30	30	25
Surrey	125	130	140	125	155	170	140	135	140
West Berkshire	30	20	15	15	15	20	20	15	15
West Sussex	85	90	120	90	130	115	130	115	150
Windsor and Maidenhead	20	25	30	25	20	15	15	25	20
Wokingham	25	20	15	15	10	15	20	25	15
South West	570	580	590	620	630	630	570	580	570
Bath and North East Somerset	5	15	20	25	20	15	10	15	5
Bournemouth	35	35	40	30	30	30	30	25	30
Bristol, City of	75	50	60	75	85	80	70	70	65
Cornwall	70	80	75	70	65	60	60	65	55
Devon	75	70	75	100	85	80	95	105	110
Dorset	20	25	15	20	35	40	40	40	35
Gloucestershire	65	70	75	70	65	55	35	40	35
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	15	20	10	10	15	10	10	10	5
Plymouth	35	40	30	30	45	35	25	25	20
Poole	15	15	15	25	15	15	10	10	10
Somerset	85	75	65	50	60	75	65	70	65
South Gloucestershire	20	15	15	20	30	30	25	25	25
Swindon	15	20	30	30	15	25	25	15	15
Torbay	15	15	15	25	25	15	15	20	20
Wiltshire	30	25	45	35	45	55	60	50	60

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

[2] Children in residential care include children looked after and placed in secure unit, children placed in homes and hostels subject to children's homes regulations, children placed in residential accommodation (hostels and supportive residential settings) not subject to children's homes regulations, children placed in residential settings and children in all residential schools, except where dual-registered as a school and children's home.

[3] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which for 2000 to 2003 have been derived from the one third sample, while figures for 2004 to 2008 cover all children looked after.

[4] Rounding and suppression—to ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for rounding and suppression of very small numbers. England totals have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. All other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five, and numbers from one to five inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the published table by a hyphen (—).

Source:

SSDA 903

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects Ofsted next to report on lessons from serious case reviews. [274263]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 May 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted has started the preparation for its second report on the outcomes of serious case reviews, based on evaluations which were completed between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. This is provisionally planned for publication in late August 2009.

In light of Lord Laming's recent recommendations, Ofsted also intends to produce more regular reports, at six-monthly intervals, which summarise the lessons from serious case reviews. We have yet to agree the pattern of dates of these reports.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years; [277648]

(2) what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277729]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For the schools estate, some of the steps taken by DCSF and local authorities include:

increasing the flood resilience of schools that have been or could be subject to flooding;

promoting sustainable urban drainage strategies and other sustainable water management practices in new and existing school projects, as identified in the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) report funded by the Department[1];

promoting passive environmental design of new buildings to prevent summertime overheating; and

joint DCSF/HPA guidance for teachers and other professionals on looking after schoolchildren during heatwaves[2].

The Department has not made any estimate of the costs and savings from climate change adaptation measures in schools. However some cost analysis of the possible impacts on buildings was published in a report by the Foundation for the Built Environment published in 2000[3].

The Department's Estates and Facilities Management Division has earmarked £500,000 and £550,000 for the next two years, to invest in sustainability measures in the Department's buildings. Assessments will be made of each potential sustainability improvement and we will invest in projects with a three-year payback or better. We are not yet in a position to determine the amount of these monies that will be spent on climate change adaptation measures or the value of the savings associated with them.

Departmental ICT

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide emissions arising from the operation of ICT systems in his Department under the Greening Government ICT Strategy. [273553]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer my hon. Member to the reply given on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 898W.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1708W, on departmental training, which Ministers attended the *(a)* induction workshop, *(b)* action learning set, *(c)* media training and *(d)* select committee training courses; and what the total cost of these courses was. [265678]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Ministers in the Department for Children, Schools and Families who have attended personal training courses are: *(a)* Induction Workshop: Sarah McCarthy-Fry, *(b)* Action Learning Set: Delyth Morgan, *(c)* Media Training: Sarah McCarthy-Fry and Delyth Morgan, *(d)* Select Committee Training: Sarah McCarthy-Fry.

The total cost of these courses was £4,432.75.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many work placements his Department and its predecessors offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates in each of the last five years. [274491]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

	School pupils	*University students and graduates*
2005	69	14
2006	78	27
2007[1]	40	35
2008	55	32

[1] Department for Education and Skills up to 27 June 2007 and Department of Children, Schools and Families from 28 June 2007.

It is not possible to separate figures for university students and graduates.

The Department is currently in the process of planning its own work experience programme for 2009.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277417]

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[1] Sustainable water management in schools (W012) available free from

www.ciria.org.uk/suds/publications.htm

[2] Guidance for Teachers and other professionals on looking after Schoolchildren during Heatwaves—

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1210577610802?p=1204031509010.

and Background Information from HPA and DCSF on looking after Schoolchildren during heatwaves—

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1210577610624?p=1204031509010

[3] Potential implications of climate change in the built environment, Hilary M Graves, Mark C Phillipson, 2000, ISBN 1860814476, available from

http://www.brebookshop.com/details.jsp?id=144643.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has defended less than five claims in employment tribunal hearings in each of the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09. The Department was established on 28 June 2007. Further detail is suppressed on grounds of confidentiality.

Information on the number of claims withdrawn during the process of being defended prior to a full hearing is not held and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information for the 2006-07 financial year could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Faith Schools: Finance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department provided to religious bodies as a contribution to their capital expenditure on voluntary-aided schools of a religious character in each year from 1997-98 to 2003-04; what proportion of his Department's expenditure such expenditure represented in each of those years; and in what instances his Department's contribution represented *(a)* up to 90 per cent. and *(b)* 90 per cent. or more of total project expenditure. [277665]

Jim Knight: The information set out as follows shows the amount of grant payable from 2001-02, the earliest year for which we have the information, to the governing bodies of those voluntary aided (VA) schools with a religious character. This is then shown as a proportion of the total departmental capital programme (including PFI credits) for all schools. Some VA schools will also have received some funding from programmes other than the main VA programmes but as these records are maintained mainly at local authority level we do not keep records of the amounts. The proportions in the table are therefore likely smaller than the actual share.

Although most capital expenditure at voluntary aided schools requires a 10 per cent. contribution from their governing bodies, we do not have information relating to any other contributions made either by governing bodies or from any other source.

	Amount paid up to 90 per cent. (£000)	*Amount paid 90-100 per cent. (£000)*	*Amount as a proportion of the total departmental capital programme (percentage)*
2001-02	172,292	427	6.16
2002-03	298,205	3,750	8.67
2003-04	440,450	28,200	10.8
Total	910,947	32,377	

GCE A-Level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average A-level points score per pupil was for secondary schools with sixth forms of *(a)* 50 or fewer, *(b)* 51 to 100, *(c)* 101 to 150, *(d)* 151 to 200, *(e)* 201 to 250 and *(f)* more than 250 pupils in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [273518]

Jim Knight: The information is published in the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables on the Department's website at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/16to18_08.shtml.

A copy of the tables is available in the House Libraries.

GCE A-Level: History

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who sat A-level history at mainstream maintained schools gained an A to E grade in that subject in each year since 1997. [276845]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be found in the table:

Number and proportion of pupils who sat A-level history at mainstream maintained schools and who gained an A to E grade in that subject in each year since 1997

	Number	*Percentage*
1997	16,713	86.6
1998	16,710	87.2
1999	16,541	87.9
2000	16,617	88.9
2001	17,034	88.7
2002	20,159	97.1
2003	20,903	97.9
2004	21,987	98.1
2005	22,767	98.1
2006	23,723	98.1
2007	23,826	98.4
2008	24,811	98.9

Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables.

The jump in the pass rate in 2002 is partly due to the new unitised A-level exams which saw the first cohort taking AS courses.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils did not gain a single GCSE grade excluding equivalents in 2008. [251122]

Jim Knight: The number of pupils that did not attain at least one full[1] GCSE (excluding all[2] equivalents) in the grade of A*-G is 24,119, which is a proportion of 3.7 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in the year, 2008.

[1] Short GCSE courses have been excluded. Full, double and extended double courses have been included.

[2] GNVQ's have also been excluded.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils, including those in the cohort but not entered for examination, in *(a)* comprehensive schools, *(b)* independent schools, *(c)* pupil referral units, excluding hospital schools, *(d)* special schools, *(e)* grammar schools, *(f)* academies and city technology colleges and *(g)* any other type of school attained five GCSEs grades A* to C, including English and mathematics and excluding equivalents in the last year for which figures are available. [266862]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table:

Number and proportion of pupils at the end of KS4 that achieved five or more GCSEs[1] at grade A-C, including English and maths, by school type in 2008*

School category	*Number of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C including English and maths*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C including English and maths*
(a) Comprehensive[2]	247,840	46.2
(b) Independent mainstream	22,597	49.0
(c) Pupil referral units (excluding hospital schools)	55	0.8
(d) Special schools[3]	110	1.0
(e) Grammar schools	22,038	97.7
(f) Academies and CTCs[2]	4,448	34.6
(g) Other (modern and other maintained schools)	10,267	34.7

[1] Only GCSE and vocational GCSE grades have been considered.
[2] Academies and CTCs are a subset of comprehensive schools.
[3] Including independent special schools and excluding hospital schools.

GCSE: Citizenship

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils sat a GCSE in citizenship studies in each of the last five years; [276839]

(2) how many pupils sat GCSEs in both citizenship studies and history in each year since 1997. [276840]

Jim Knight: The information required is given in the table. The GCSE short course in citizenship has only been available for the past five years.

Number of pupils attempting history and citizenship in 2003/04 to 2007/08

	GCSE short course in citizenship	*Both full GCSE history and GCSE short course in citizenship*
2004	24,415	8,365
2005	36,207	11,947
2006	51,296	17,323
2007	67,295	21,739
2008	84,588	26,384

Notes:
1. Figures in 2003/04 relate to 15-year-olds (age at start of academic year, ie 31 August) in all schools.
2. Figures for 2005 onwards relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which official of his Department minuted the meeting of 17 June 2008 between the Minister of State for Schools and David Gee about national curriculum tests; and if he will make a statement. [278089]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 30 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1450W. My private secretary took a note of the meeting on 17 June 2008.

National Curriculum Tests: Reading Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils who attended a school in the Reading Local Education Authority area took the Key Stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science attained the same or a lower level than they attained at Key Stage 2 (i) in total and (ii) for pupils who attained (A) level 3, (B) level 4 and (C) level 5 at Key Stage 2 in each year since 1997; [248861]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils who attended a school in the Reading Local Education Authority area and attained level 5 or below in the Key Stage 3 tests in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science in 2007 had previously attained level 5 or above at Key Stage 2. [248862]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is in the following tables. Data for other years can be only provided at disproportionate cost.

Attainment[1] of pupils[2] in all schools at key stage 2 (2004) and key stage 3 (2007) analysed by subject—Year: 2007 (Revised); Coverage: Reading

	Percentage achieving key stage 3 level												
Key stage 2 level	*Unable to access test*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*Total*	*Level 5 or above*	*Level 6 or above*
English—91% of pupils with a valid result in English at key stage 3[3] also have a valid result in English at key stage 2[4]													
Disapplied	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
B	0	58	21	—	x	x	x	0	0	—	100	x	0
N	0	50	23	—	13	x	x	0	0	—	100	x	0
2	0	15	31	—	23	31	0	0	0	—	100	0	0
3	0	6	8	—	8	45	31	0	0	—	100	31	0
4	0	x	1	—	2	14	60	16	5	—	100	81	21
5	0	0	0	—	0	0	17	47	35	—	100	99	82

Attainment[1] of pupils[2] in all schools at key stage 2 (2004) and key stage 3 (2007) analysed by subject—Year: 2007 (Revised); Coverage: Reading

						Percentage achieving key stage 3 level							
Key stage 2 level	*Unable to access test*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*Total*	*Level 5 or above*	*Level 6 or above*
Maths—89% of pupils with a valid result in Maths at key stage 3[5] also have a valid result in Maths at key stage 2[6]													
Disapplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	32	0	x	52	x	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
N	0	0	x	x	58	30	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
2	0	0	x	0	25	67	0	0	0	0	100	0	0
3	0	x	x	0	10	41	34	11	0	0	100	45	11
4	0	0	0	0	x	4	30	48	15	x	100	94	64
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	7	33	60	100	100	99
Science—89% of pupils with a valid result in Science at key stage 3[7] also have a valid result in Science at key stage 2[8]													
Disapplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
B	0	x	x	0	67	0	0	0	0	—	100	0	0
N	0	0	36	0	27	27	0	0	0	—	100	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	38	54	0	0	0	—	100	0	0
3	0	x	4	x	23	50	16	0	0	—	100	16	0
4	0	0	1	x	3	23	55	16	1	—	100	71	16
5	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	27	58	—	100	98	86

[1] Results of key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests, not teacher assessments.
[2] Only pupils with a valid level at both key stage 2 and key stage 3 are included.
[3] Valid results in KS3 English include levels 3-7, B, N, A, unable to access test and malpractice cases. Absent and Malpractice not shown within table.
[4] Valid results in KS2 English include levels 2-6, D, B, N, A. Absent not shown within table.
[5] Valid results in KS3 Maths include levels 3-8, B, N, A, unable to access test and malpractice cases. Absent and Malpractice not shown within table.
[6] Valid results in KS2 Maths include levels 2-6, D, B, N, A. Absent not shown within table.
[7] Valid results in KS3 Science include levels 3-7, B, N, A, unable to access test and malpractice cases. Absent and Malpractice not shown within table.
[8] Valid results in KS2 Science include levels 2-6, D, B, N, A. Absent not shown within table.
Note:
'x' = Percentage suppressed due to small numbers

						Number achieving key stage 3 level							
Key stage 2 level	*Unable to access test*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*Total*	*Level 5 or above*	*Level 6 or above*
English—91% of pupils with a valid result in English at key stage 3[3] also have a valid result in English at key stage 2[4]													
Disapplied	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
B	0	20	10	x	—	x	x	0	0	—	30	x	0
N	0	20	10	x	—	x	x	0	0	—	30	x	0
2	0	x	x	x	—	x	0	0	0	—	10	0	0
3	0	10	10	10	—	60	40	0	0	—	130	40	0
4	0	x	x	10	—	50	220	60	10	—	350	290	70
5	0	0	0	0	—	0	60	150	110	—	320	320	260
Maths—89% of pupils with a valid result in Maths at key stage 3[5] also have a valid result in Maths at key stage 2[6]													
Disapplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B	0	x	x	x	10	x	0	0	0	0	20	0	0

	Number achieving key stage 3 level												
Key stage 2 level	*Unable to access test*	*B*	*N*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*Total*	*Level 5 or above*	*Level 6 or above*
N	0	0	x	x	20	10	0	0	0	0	30	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	x	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
3	0	x	x	0	20	80	60	20	0	0	180	80	20
4	0	0	10	0	x	10	90	140	40	x	300	280	190
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	20	110	210	340	340	340
Science—89% of pupils with a valid result in Science at key stage 3[7] *also have a valid result in Science at key stage 2*[8]													
Disapplied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
B	0	x	x	0	10	0	0	0	0	—	10	0	0
N	0	0	x	0	x	x	0	0	0	—	10	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	0	0	—	10	0	0
3	0	x	x	x	30	50	20	0	0	—	100	20	0
4	0	0	10	x	10	80	190	50	x	—	340	240	60
5	0	0	0	0	0	x	50	110	240	—	400	400	340

[1] Results of key stage 2 and key stage 3 tests, not teacher assessments.
[2] Only pupils with a valid level at both key st[illegible] 2 and key stage 3 are included.
[3] Valid results in KS3 English include levels 3-7, B, N, A, unable to access test and malpractice cases. Absent and Malpractice not shown within table.
[4] Valid results in KS2 English include levels 2-6, D, B, N, A. Absent not shown within table.
[5] Valid results in KS3 Maths include levels 3-8, B, N, A, unable to access test and malpractice cases. Absent and Malpractice not shown within table.
[6] Valid results in KS2 Maths include levels 2-6, D, B, N, A. Absent not shown within table.
[7] Valid results in KS3 Science include levels 3-7, B, N, A, unable to access test and malpractice cases. Absent and Malpractice not shown within table.
[8] Valid results in KS2 Science include levels 2-6, D, B, N, A. Absent not shown within table.

Notes:

1. 'x' Figures suppressed due to small numbers
2. All figures rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore parts may not sum to totals.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children of between five and seven years have been *(a)* excluded from school for a fixed period and *(b)* permanently excluded from school in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [275093]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions (not pupils) is published at:

2006/07 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

2005/06 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000733/index.shtml

2004/05 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000662/index.shtml

2003/04 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000582/index.shtml

2002/03 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000535/index.shtml

2001/02 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000427/index.shtml

2000/01 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000365/index.shtml

1999/2000 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000298/index.shtml

1998/99 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000209/index.shtml

1997/98 http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000025/index.shtml

Data on permanent exclusions are available for the full period requested.

Data on fixed period exclusions were collected for the first time in 2003/04 via the Termly Exclusions Survey. Since 2005/06 collection has been via the School Census, but in that first year was for secondary schools only. In 2006/07, collection was extended to primary and special schools.

The School Census includes non-maintained special schools, city technology colleges and academies whereas the Termly Exclusions Survey excludes them. This difference in scope and the change in collection mechanism mean that caution is needed when comparing results since 2005/06 with those prior to that.

School Meals

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that school pupils eat healthy meals at school lunchtimes. [278034]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Secretary of State has set up the School Food Trust (SFT), put in place new nutritional standards, and is investing over £650 million to improve the quality of school food.

Since September 2006 all schools have had to meet food-based standards for school lunches and, since September 2007, they have also had to meet food-based standards for other school food such as tuck shops, vending and breakfast clubs.

Nutrient-based standards have been mandatory in primary schools since September 2008 and come into effect in secondary and special schools from September 2009.

Together with the Trust, we have created a network of school FEAST (Food Excellence and Skills Training) centres to offer customised and new training and qualifications for school caterers. The Trust has put in place a range of guidance, communications and marketing activities, and a network of local school food ambassadors to encourage and support schools to provide good quality school lunches.

The Trust's Million Meals programme provides a range of resources and support to increase take up.

Schools: Asbestos

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of maintained schools with asbestos in the fabric of the school building; and if he will make a statement. [276313]

Jim Knight: Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) were used extensively as building materials in Great Britain and the majority of schools are likely to contain them as are many other buildings both domestic and non-domestic. It has been estimated that more than 500,000 non-domestic premises, including schools, still contain ACMs.

Many maintained schools built or refurbished between 1945 and the early 1980s have asbestos in the fabric of the school building because in that period ACMs were extensively used as building materials in new and refurbished schools, although asbestos removal has taken place in some of them since. In particular, pre-fabricated schools—so called system-built schools—of the CLASP, SCOLA and Hills types commonly used ACMs. The HSE records over 1,400 CLASP schools in the UK, and it has been estimated there are 13,000 system built schools.

Major refurbishments normally include removal of all asbestos in areas in which work is undertaken and when new schools replace old ones the demolition includes the safe disposal of all ACMs.

There are around 28,000 maintained schools in England. The following analysis, compiled in 2001, shows the ages of buildings of maintained schools in England, as percentages of floor area:

	Percentage
Pre 1919	14
Inter war	13
From 1945 to 1966	33
From 1967 to 1976	24
Post 1976	13
Temporary premises	3

Our best estimate in September 2008 on the basis of the figures above was that around 70 per cent. of school buildings contain some ACMs.

Schools: Construction

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the 100,000 jobs the Government plans to create he expects to result from school capital projects. [250651]

Jim Knight: A tentative estimate of the number of jobs that will be created from the acceleration of schools capital funding during the financial year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 is 10,000.

Schools: Playing Fields

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the area of land used for school playing fields *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [278032]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on areas of school playing fields and external spaces were supplied to my Department by local education authorities in 2001 and 2003. However, the completeness and quality of the data were not good enough to accurately estimate the area of land used.

Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act was introduced in October 1998 to stop the indiscriminate sale of school playing fields. Local authorities and governing bodies of all maintained schools now need the Secretary of State's consent before they can dispose of a playing field or any part of a playing field.

Schools: Safety

Mr. [illegible]bb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the *(a)* methodology and *(b)* frequency of fire safety inspections in schools. [277689]

Jim Knight: The management of fire safety in buildings is subject to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) (RRO) Order 2005. The guide to this legislation covering schools is the Risk Assessment Guide for Educational Premises 2006 (RRO Guide)[1]. The RRO brings in a risk assessment based approach to fire safety. Risk assessment is a continual process and the "responsible person" for the school must ensure that it is updated as and when necessary. The Fire and Rescue Services are the enforcing authorities for the RRO and can inspect any premises at any time. There is no frequency given for such inspections but they are likely to be more frequent for high risk premises.

[1] Fire Safety Risk Assessment—Educational Premises, published 2006, ISBN: 978 1 85112 819 8.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/firesafetyrisk6

Special Educational Needs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils with statements of special educational needs attended special schools in the *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Teesside and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [276686]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the following table. Data for further years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Proportion of pupils[1] with statements of special educational needs attending special schools[2,3]—Years: 1997, 2000, 2005 and 2008

	1997			2000		
	Special schools	*Maintained primary, state funded secondary and special schools*[4]	*Proportion in special schools*	*Special schools*	*Maintained primary, state funded secondary and special schools*[4]	*Proportion in special schools*
England	92,360	226,170	40.8	91,480	243,800	37.5
North East	6,240	12,960	48.2	5,650	13,600	41.5
Teesside[5]	1,480	2,750	54.0	1,310	2,840	46.3
Hartlepool	220	380	57.4	210	420	50.5
Middlesbrough	510	840	60.7	350	770	45.3
Redcar and Cleveland	220	510	43.5	220	580	38.4
Stockton-on-Tees	540	1,020	52.5	530	1,060	49.6
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	160	320	48.6	150	410	36.9

	2005			2008		
	Special schools	*Maintained primary, state funded secondary and special schools*[4]	*Proportion in special schools*	*Special schools*	*Maintained primary, state funded secondary and special schools*[4]	*Proportion in special schools*
England	88,030	232,660	37.8	86,950	213,350	40.8
North East	5,610	12,810	43.8	5,550	11,470	48.4
Teesside[5]	1,290	3,030	42.4	1,360	2,710	50.1
Hartlepool	130	370	34.8	120	310	37.5
Middlesbrough	430	980	43.5	420	870	48.0
Redcar and Cleveland	230	650	35.2	300	610	49.2
Stockton-on-Tees	510	1,040	48.6	520	920	56.9
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland	190	530	35.8	190	480	39.5

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Includes general and special hospital schools.
[3] As a proportion of those attending maintained primary, state funded secondary and special schools.
[4] Includes CTCs and Academies.
[5] Teesside consists of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton-on-Tees.
Source:
School Census.

The Department does not hold the requested information for the UK. Information relating to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are available from the Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Department of Education, respectively.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in each local authority area who were eligible for free school meals, had statements of special educational needs and were children in care, attended mainstream schools in 2008. [260506]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the table.

The information provided is from the School Census however this is not the usual source of data for information on children in care. Usually we would use the looked after children database but this does not hold all the details requested here.

The School Census shows that there were 34,390 pupils aged 5 to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools and classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department in "SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008" show 47,600 children aged between 5 and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. However, the School Census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training.

These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the School Census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

LA maintained primary schools and state-funded secondary schools[1,2]: Pupils eligible for free school meals, with statements of special educational needs and in care, as at January 2008, England, by local authority

	Number of pupils[3,4]
England	430
North East	20
Darlington	[5]—
Durham	10
Gateshead	0
Hartlepool	0
Middlesbrough	10
Newcastle upon Tyne	[5]—
North Tyneside	[5]—
Northumberland	[5]—
Redcar and Cleveland	0
South Tyneside	[5]—
Stockton-on-Tees	[5]—
Sunderland	[5]—
North West	120
Blackburn with Darwen	[5]—
Blackpool	[5]—
Bolton	10
Bury	[5]—
Cheshire	10
Cumbria	10
Halton	[5]—
Knowsley	0
Lancashire	20
Liverpool	10
Manchester	20
Oldham	[5]—
Rochdale	[5]—
Salford	[5]—
Sefton	[5]—
St. Helens	[5]—
Stockport	10
Tameside	[5]—
Trafford	10
Warrington	[5]—
Wigan	[5]—
Wirral	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	50
Barnsley	[5]—
Bradford	10
Calderdale	[5]—
Doncaster	[5]—
East Riding of Yorkshire	[5]—
Kingston upon Hull, City of	[5]—
Kirklees	[5]—
Leeds	10
North East Lincolnshire	0
North Lincolnshire	[5]—
North Yorkshire	[5]—
Rotherham	[5]—
Sheffield	10
Wakefield	[5]—
York	[5]—
East Midlands	30
Derby	[5]—
Derbyshire	10
Leicester	10
Leicestershire	[5]—
Lincolnshire	[5]—
Northamptonshire	10
Nottingham	[5]—
Nottinghamshire	0
Rutland	0
West Midlands	50
Birmingham	20
Coventry	0
Dudley	10
Herefordshire	0
Sandwell	0
Shropshire	10
Solihull	[5]—
Staffordshire	[5]—
Stoke-on-Trent	[5]—
Telford and Wrekin	[5]—
Walsall	[5]—
Warwickshire	[5]—
Wolverhampton	[5]—
Worcestershire	[5]—
East of England	30
Bedfordshire	[5]—
Cambridgeshire	0
Essex	10
Hertfordshire	[5]—
Luton	[5]—
Norfolk	[5]—
Peterborough	[5]—
Southend-on-Sea	[5]—
Suffolk	[5]—
Thurrock	[5]—
London	70
Inner London	30
Camden	[5]—
City of London	0
Hackney	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	10
Haringey	0
Islington	[5]—
Kensington and Chelsea	[5]—
Lambeth	10
Lewisham	[5]—
Newham	[5]—
Southwark	[5]—
Tower Hamlets	10
Wandsworth	[5]—
Westminster	[5]—
Outer London	30
Barking and Dagenham	0
Barnet	[5]—
Bexley	[5]—
Brent	[5]—
Bromley	0

LA maintained primary schools and state-funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Pupils eligible for free school meals, with statements of special educational needs and in care, as at January 2008, England, by local authority

	Number of pupils[3, 4]
Croydon	[5]—
Ealing	[5]—
Enfield	[5]—
Greenwich	10
Harrow	[5]—
Havering	[5]—
Hillingdon	[5]—
Hounslow	[5]—
Kingston upon Thames	0
Merton	0
Redbridge	[5]—
Richmond upon Thames	[5]—
Sutton	[5]—
Waltham Forest	[5]—
South East	40
Bracknell Forest	0
Brighton and Hove	[5]—
Buckinghamshire	[5]—
East Sussex	[5]—
Hampshire	[5]—
Isle of Wight	[5]—
Kent	10
Medway	[5]—
Milton Keynes	0
Oxfordshire	[5]—
Portsmouth	[5]—
Reading	[5]—
Slough	[5]—
Southampton	0
Surrey	10
West Berkshire	0
West Sussex	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	[5]—
Wokingham	0
South West	20
Bath and North East Somerset	[5]—
Bournemouth	0
Bristol, City of	[5]—
Cornwall	0
Devon	[5]—
Dorset	[5]—
Gloucestershire	[5]—
Isles of Scilly	0
North Somerset	0
Plymouth	[5]—
Poole	[5]—
Somerset	[5]—
South Gloucestershire	0
Swindon	[5]—
Torbay	[5]—
Wiltshire	[5]—

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[3] Pupils aged 5-19.
[4] Includes dually registered pupils.
[5] Less than 5.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* special school pupils who were eligible for free school meals had an absence rate of 50 per cent. or above in 2007-08. [260537]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the table.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1, 2, 3] pupils eligible for free school meals who have an absence rate of 50 per cent. or above, 2007/08, England

	Number of pupil enrolments with an absence rate of 50 per cent. or above[4, 5]			
	Eligible for free school meals[6]	*Not eligible for free school meals[6]*	*Eligibility for free school meals unknown[6]*	*Total*
Primary schools[1]	1,700	2,870	8,080	12,640
State funded secondary schools[1, 2]	10,370	19,380	10,780	40,530
Special schools[3]	960	1,690	590	3,240
Total	13,030	23,940	19,440	56,410

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[4] Absence rate is the total number of half day sessions missed due to authorised and unauthorised absence expressed as a percentage of the total number of possible sessions.
[5] Number of pupil enrolments in schools from start of the school year up until 23 May 2008. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).
[6] Eligible for free school meals at the time of the January 2008 Census.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

The information is a variation of table 3.2 in SFR03/2009, which was revised on 21 April 2009.

Absence data are collected a term in arrears. Therefore, for each census, schools provide data for pupils who have left the school, in which case free school meal eligibility may not be available. The table includes all enrolments, regardless of duration of enrolment. Some enrolments may be short term.

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of permanent exclusions were given to pupils in mainstream schools with a statement of special educational need in the most recent year for which figures are available. [273643]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 8 May 2009]*: The following table shows the information requested for 2006/07.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1][2]: number and proportion of permanent exclusions given to pupils with statements of special educational need—2006/07

	England Number
Number of permanent exclusions given to pupils in mainstream schools, with statements of SEN[3]	620
Total number of permanent exclusions	8,680
Proportion of total number of permanent exclusions given to pupils in mainstream schools, with statements of SEN	7.12

[1] Includes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Includes maintained primary, maintained secondary, city technology colleges and academies.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Sure Start: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in Denton and Reddish constituency have enrolled in Sure Start in each year since 2003. [277503]

Beverley Hughes: Tameside local authority currently has 15 Sure Start Children's Centres offering access to services to around 11,756 children under five and their families. Of these, two are situated in Denton and Reddish constituency, with a combined reach of approximately 1,555 children.

The Department does not hold information centrally on how many children in Denton and Reddish constituency have enrolled in Sure Start in each year since 2003.

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what priority is accorded to pathogen inactivation for blood products by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs; and if he will make a statement. [277378]

Dawn Primarolo: Advice on measures to reduce the risk of transmission of bacterial and other infections via blood, particularly blood components such as red cells, platelets and plasma, is central to the work of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs.

Fractionated blood products such as albumin, clotting factors and immunoglobulins are regulated as medicinal products, and are subject to the requirements of the Community code for safety, quality and efficacy of medicinal products as defined in European Directive 2001/83/EC.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the Steele Review of NHS dentistry in England; and if he will make a statement. [277855]

Ann Keen: We expect the findings of the independent review team will be published in the early summer.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the Steele Review of NHS dentistry in England; and from which budgetary allocation the funds for the review are drawn. [277856]

Ann Keen: The costs of the review are being met from the Department's centrally managed programme funds. Final review costs will be available once Professor Steele's review is complete and his report is published. We expect the report to be published in the early summer.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277414]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested about actions against the Department under employment law is given in the following table.

	Nature of the case	*Outcome*	*Number*
2008-09	Equal pay claim	Case withdrawn by claimant	2
	Disability Discrimination Act	Case withdrawn by claimant	
2007-08	Unfair dismissal	Case withdrawn by claimant	3
	Disability Discrimination Act	Case withdrawn by claimant	
	Discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation	Case contested by Department. Tribunal found in favour of the Department	
2006-07	Constructive dismissal	Case withdrawn by claimant	2
	Unfair dismissal	Case withdrawn by claimant	

Epilepsy

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the extent to which the NHS is achieving compliance with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the waiting time for a specialist consultation for those suspected of having epilepsy. [277766]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the extent to which the national health service is meeting the waiting time guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's guidance note of May 2008, Long Term Neurological Conditions—A Good Practice Guide to the Development of the Multidisciplinary Team and the Value of the Specialist Nurse, on the number of epilepsy specialist nurses in the NHS. [277821]

Ann Keen: We have made no assessment.

It is the responsibility of local health bodies to assess their workforce needs, which may include the provision of epilepsy specialist nurses.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people *(a)* in total and *(b)* under the age of 25 years have been diagnosed with epilepsy in (i) England, (ii) the East Midlands and (iii) Leicester; [278127]

(2) how many people were diagnosed with epilepsy in each of the last 10 years; [278128]

(3) how many people are estimated to have undiagnosed epilepsy in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* Leicester. [278132]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people with either diagnosed, or undiagnosed, epilepsy is not collected centrally.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many support groups there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* Leicester for those diagnosed with epilepsy and their families. [278134]

Ann Keen: We do not collect information on the number of support groups for those diagnosed with epilepsy.

Health Professions: Immigration Controls

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of recent changes to Tier One immigration rules for highly skilled migrants on numbers of applications to postgraduate medical training posts; and if he will make a statement. [277380]

Ann Keen: International medical graduates play an important and valued part in the United Kingdom's national health service. The Department and UK Border Agency are working together to ensure that the needs of the NHS are taken into account when any changes are made to immigration law and are developing transitional measures for international medical graduates who have trained in UK medical schools.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effects of recent changes to Tiers One and Two of the immigration rules on medical workforce planning; and if he will make a statement. [277381]

Ann Keen: International medical graduates play an important and valued part in the United Kingdom's national health service. The Department and UK Border Agency work together to ensure that the needs of the NHS are taken into account when any changes are made to the immigration rule.

Hospitals

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to NHS hospital trusts on the rules and conventions that apply to clinical attachments; and if he will make a statement. [277295]

Ann Keen: The Department has not produced any specific guidance on the role and use of clinical attachments in the national health service, but would expect all employing organisations to follow the guidance set out by the General Medical Council covering good medical practice in the engagement of these individual doctors.

Lung Cancer

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of primary care trusts participated in the National Lung Cancer Audit for 2007; and what steps his Department has taken to encourage primary care trusts to participate in the National Lung Cancer Audit for 2008; [277741]

(2) how many primary care trusts did not submit data to the National Lung Cancer Audit for 2007. [277742]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts do not submit data to the National Lung Cancer Audit (NLCA). Audit data are submitted by 28 cancer networks, covering all the national health service trusts providing services for people with lung cancer. NLCA started in 2005 and coverage has progressively improved. Their 2007 report found that all cancer networks were participating and only six of their constituent NHS trusts did not contribute data.

The NLCA is part of the national clinical audit and patient outcome programme, which comprises over 20 national audits managed by the health quality improvement partnership with funding from the Department.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many lung cancer patients the NHS had in 2007; and how many of these were aged *(a)* under 50, *(b)* between 50 and 59, *(c)* between 60 and 69 *(d)* between 70 and 79 and *(e)* 80 or more years old. [277824]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of lung cancer patients who do not have access to a specialist thoracic surgeon. [277825]

Ann Keen: We do not routinely collect this information. It is for local service providers to determine the work force required to deliver the service needs.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of lung cancer patients are being treated by a *(a)* cardio-thoracic and *(b)* specialist thoracic surgeon in the last 12 months for which figures are available; [277828]

(2) what proportion of lung cancer patients who had a surgical resection were treated by a *(a)* cardiothoracic and *(b)* specialist thoracic surgeon in the latest period for which figures are available. [277829]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. It is for local service providers to determine the work force required to deliver the service needs.

Lyme Disease

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research into lyme disease his Department plans for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [277817]

Dawn Primarolo: Neither the Department nor the Medical Research Council (MRC) is currently supporting research directly concerned with lyme disease, although the MRC funds a broader portfolio of basic underpinning research relating to bacterial infection and emerging diseases that may lead to further understanding of the condition.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported cases of *(a)* mumps, *(b)* measles and *(c)* rubella there were in each year since 1997. [277107]

Dawn Primarolo: The information supplied by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is shown in the following table.

All laboratory confirmed cases of measles, mumps and rubella, England and Wales, 1997 to 2008

	Measles	*Mumps*	*Rubella*
1997	177	182	117
1998	56	121	119
1999	92	373	162
2000	100	730	62
2001	70	784	45
2002	319	500	64
2003	437	1,541	16
2004	188	8,129	14
2005	78	43,378	29
2006	740	4,420	34
2007	990	1,476	35
2008[1]	1,370	2,440	27

[1] Provisional totals.

Notes:

1. Measles and mumps includes those confirmed by testing serum and by oral fluid
2. Rubella includes serum confirmed from 1997, but since 1998 includes both serum and oral fluid.
3. From February 2005, the HPA recommended that, during the period of increased mumps incidence, oral fluid sample should not be taken from individuals with clinical mumps who are born between 1981 and 1986, and they should be managed as if they were confirmed cases. For the purpose of reporting, all notified cases of mumps in this 15 to 24-year-old age group are being counted as confirmed.

NHS Appointments Service

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department incurred on the NHS Appointments Service in the last 12 months; and how many people were employed by the service at the latest date for which figures are available. [277782]

Ann Keen: In 2008-09, the Department provided the Appointments Commission with £4,228,000 (including capital funding), for which the Commission made 825 public appointments, provided an induction programme for appointees, ensured systems were in place to appraise the performance of public appointees, provided training and development opportunities and updated the Commission's information and communication technology.

During the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009, an average of 52 whole time equivalent staff were employed at the Appointments Commission.

NHS: Innovation

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* terms of reference have and *(b)* timetable has been set for the review of innovation in the NHS led by Professor Kennedy. [277836]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has commissioned Professor Sir Ian Kennedy to conduct an independent study on valuing innovation, looking specifically at:

what approach should be adopted by NICE to ensure that innovation is properly taken into account when establishing the value of new health technologies?

should particular forms of value be considered more important than others?

how should innovation in health technologies be defined?

what is the relationship between innovation and value?

We understand that Professor Kennedy's report will be considered by NICE's Board when it meets on 22 July 2009. Further information on this study is available on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/latestnewsfromnice/valuinginnovation.jsp

NHS: Manpower

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist thoracic surgeons were employed by the NHS at the latest date for which figures are available. [277826]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fully-trained *(a)* psychiatrists, *(b)* psychologists, *(c)* psychiatric nurses and *(d)* social workers there were in the NHS in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [278084]

Ann Keen: The number of psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric nurses employed by the national health service in England in the years requested is given in the following table.

The number of social workers is not collected centrally by the Department.

		Headcount
Staff	*1997*	*2008*
Medical staff in the psychiatry specialties[1]	3,962	6,070
Clinical psychologists	4,038	7,523
Psychotherapists	489	1,366

Staff	1997	Headcount 2008
Psychiatric nurses	39,109	49,113
Learning disabilities nurses	11,111	7,197

[1] Excludes doctors in training and equivalents.

Smoking

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect the prohibition on smoking in public places has had on the incidence of littering. [277810]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not conducted any specific research into the impact on litter since the implementation of the smokefree law in England in July 2007.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the use of branded generics in nicotine replacement therapy. [277830]

Dawn Primarolo: A significant body of research evidence exists around the use of nicotine replacement therapy in supporting smokers to quit.

The Department has not commissioned specific research on the use of branded generics in nicotine replacement therapy.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure the NHS incurred on nicotine replacement therapy products in the most recent year for which figures are available. [277831]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2008, the net ingredient cost of prescriptions for nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) dispensed in England was £30,009,015. This figure does not include NRT provided without a prescription by national health service stop smoking services clinics whose figures for this activity are not collected centrally.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost per pupil immunised of BCG vaccination was in the period immediately before the universal vaccination programme was ended; and if he will make a statement. [277832]

Dawn Primarolo: A targeted at-risk vaccination programme replaced the school-based routine programme of Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination against tuberculosis in 2005. The school-based programme provided the Heaf test prior to BCG vaccination. The aggregate cost per pupil of the Heaf test and BCG vaccine was approximately £2 in 2005. Costs of administration are not included in this figure.

Welfare Food Scheme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nurseries and *(b)* other day care facilities participate in his Department's Welfare Food Scheme by offering free milk to children of less than five years of age. [277850]

Dawn Primarolo: A breakdown of the number of facilities participating in the Nursery Milk scheme in England, Wales and Scotland is provided in the following table.

Nursery milk providers June 2009

Country	Provider	Total
England	Registered childminder	3,847
England	Registered day care provider	16,446
England	Exempt establishment	9
England	Grant Maintained School	4
England	Independent/Non-maintained School	23
England	Local authority providing day care	348
England	Non EC Grant Maintained School	1
England	Non EC LEA School or Nursery	13
England	Other	2
England	Non EC Independent/Non-maintained School	10
England	Exempt school	94
England	Unknown	1
Scotland	Registered childminder	310
Scotland	Registered day care provider	1,697
Scotland	Exempt establishment	1
Scotland	Grant Maintained School	0
Scotland	Independent/Non-maintained School	0
Scotland	Local authority providing day care	38
Scotland	Non EC Grant Maintained School	0
Scotland	Non EC LEA School or Nursery	0
Scotland	Other	0
Scotland	Non EC Independent/Non-maintained School	0
Scotland	Exempt school	0
Scotland	Unknown	0
Wales	Registered childminder	164
Wales	Registered day care provider	1,042

Nursery milk providers June 2009

Country	*Provider*	*Total*
Wales	Exempt establishment	0
Wales	Grant Maintained School	0
Wales	Independent/Non-maintained School	1
Wales	Local authority providing day care	32
Wales	Non EC Grant Maintained School	0
Wales	Non EC LEA School or Nursery	1
Wales	Other	1
Wales	Non EC Independent/Non-maintained School	0
Wales	Exempt school	4
Wales	Unknown	0
Total		24,089

Notes:
1. The exempts relate to places like a company providing a crèche for its employees, a registered children's home, a community home or a health service hospital.
2. EC—refers to European Community.

The facilities in the following table are not currently participating in the scheme.

Country	*Facility*	*Total*
Scotland	Grant Maintained School	0
Scotland	Independent/Non-maintained School	0
Scotland	Non EC Grant Maintained School	0
Scotland	Non EC LEA School or Nursery	0
Scotland	Other	0
Scotland	Non EC Independent/Non-maintained School	0
Scotland	Exempt school	0
Scotland	Unknown	0
Wales	Exempt establishment	0
Wales	Grant Maintained School	0
Wales	Non EC Grant Maintained School	0
Wales	Non EC Independent/Non-maintained School	0
Wales	Unknown	0

Source:
Multi Resource Marketing limited

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many members of staff in his Department were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [274307]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In each of the last 10 years less than five members of staff were dismissed from the Department for International Development for under-performance.

Total dismissals in each year were also less than five, apart from in 2002 when six members of staff were dismissed and in 2006 when again six members of staff were dismissed in total.

Providing the specific numbers in each of the other years could potentially identify individuals concerned and so breach confidentiality.

Developing Countries: Community Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reasons his Department's Community Linking scheme has been delayed; and if he will make a statement. [268753]

Mr. Michael Foster: A competitive tender process to contract a managing organisation to implement the new Department for International Development (DFID) Community Linking scheme is under way. Once a managing organisation has been contracted and has worked with DFID on early inception plans, DFID will launch the scheme.

Developing Countries: Debts

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to assist least developed countries with their debt repayments in the current economic situation. [275923]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has re-oriented its programmes to minimise the impact of the crisis on the poorest. We help countries through our country programmes, for example through social protection programmes, and by working through multilateral organisations. We have also ensured that the recent G20 summit agreed important measures to support growth in low-income countries, such as providing $50 billion to support social protection, boost trade and safeguard development. Many countries have benefited from exceptional debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries initiative (HIPC). Through our country programmes we are providing budget support to certain selected countries which helps them to manage their budgets.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take in response to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Secretary-General's request for a temporary moratorium on debt servicing for developing nations; and if he will make a statement. [275924]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government believe that existing mechanisms provide a thorough basis for dealing with developing countries' debts. The heavily indebted poor countries initiative and the multilateral debt relief initiative provide comprehensive debt relief for the poorest, most heavily indebted countries committed to poverty reduction. 35 countries are currently receiving debt relief; of which 24 have received irrevocable debt cancellation.

Any country that experiences debt problems can also approach the Paris Club. This informal group of 19 sovereign creditors, which includes the UK, agrees new arrangements with countries facing difficulties through rescheduling and, for the poorest, partial cancellation.

North Korea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing *(a)* directly and *(b)* via non-governmental organisations to alleviate conditions of poverty in North Korea. [277290]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have, and has never had, a bilateral development programme in North Korea. Any DFID assistance is solely focussed on alleviating the suffering of the people of North Korea. We are currently contributing to the EU's programme of humanitarian assistance.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the Quick Impact Project Evaluation report published by the Stabilisation Unit in March 2008. [276701]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Quick Impact Project Evaluation is a classified document not suitable for release.

Overseas Aid: Health Services

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much and what percentage of development aid was spent on projects related to population growth and reproductive and sexual health and rights in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07, *(e)* 2007-08 and *(f)* 2008-09. [277894]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A summary of the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure and an estimate of DFID multilateral expenditure spent directly on funding projects related to population growth and reproductive sexual health is provided in the following table. These figures exclude expenditure on wider health initiatives which will also lead to improved development outcomes in these areas.

	DFID bilateral expenditure (£ million)	*Imputed DFID multilateral share (£ million)*	*Total (£ million)*	*Total as percentage of overall DFID expenditure excluding administration costs*
2003-04	114	48	163	4.6
2004-05	154	74	228	6.2
2005-06	180	77	257	6.0
2006-07	184	133	318	6.6
2007-08	190	129	319	6.4

Details of DFID's 2008-09 expenditure are not yet available but will be published in the 2009 annual report in July.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what bilateral aid his Department provided for projects concerned with sexual and reproductive health and rights and HIV/AIDS in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07, *(e)* 2007-08 and *(f)* 2008-09. [277895]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS are produced in the following table.

DFID bilateral expenditure on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS

	DFID bilateral expenditure (£000)
2003-04	217,914
2004-05	261,820
2005-06	354,302
2006-07	387,294
2007-08	411,872

Details of DFID's 2008-09 expenditure are not yet available but will be published in the 2009 annual report in July. The most recently available data can be found in Statistics on International Development 2008, which is available in the Library of the House and online at

www.dfid.gov.uk

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department made to *(a)* United Nations Population Fund, *(b)* World Health Organisation, *(c)* UNICEF, *(d)* UNAIDS, *(e)* International Planned Parenthood Federation, *(f)* Marie Stopes International, *(g)* Interact Worldwide and *(h)* Women and Children First UK in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07, (v) 2007-08 and (vi) 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [277896]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) core, voluntary contributions to the UN organisations were as follows:

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
UNFPA	18	20	20	20	20	20
WHO	15.5	12.5	12.5	17.5	5.5	[illegible]

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
UNICEF	17	19	19	19	26	16
UNAIDS	3	—	16	10	19	10

DFID provided the following support via the NGOs:

Marie Stopes International (MSI) (funding for four projects): £1,913,914 (2006-12)

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF): £42,999,990 (2008-13)

Interact Worldwide (funding for eight projects): £3,861,233 (2004-13)

Women and Children First UK: £49,893 (2007-09)

DFID does not have a breakdown by financial year of the support we give to NGO projects. Information on country level contributions to the UN agencies and NGO's could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure his Department incurred on reproductive health commodities in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07, *(e)* 2007-08 and *(f)* 2008-09. [277897]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the government of Sri Lanka on *(a)* freedom of movement of individuals in the camps for those internally displaced as a result of the recent conflict and *(b)* plans to return such people to their home areas. [277252]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have repeatedly pressed the Government of Sri Lanka to improve conditions in the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and to abide by international humanitarian standards, including freedom of movement to leave the camps. We have also continually held the Government of Sri Lanka to its stated obligation to return at least 80 per cent. of the IDPs by the end of this year.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council tax payers were resident in each English county in each of the last five years. [278028]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally.

Council Tax: Surrey

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much on average the reduction in council tax liability for Surrey residents will be following the capping of the Surrey police precept for 2009-10. [278027]

John Healey: Subject to the approval of an order by the House of Commons, the reduction in Band D council tax in Surrey as a result of capping will be £3.18.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average cost to council tax payers in Surrey of council tax rebilling for 2009-10 arising from the capping of the Surrey police precept. [278097]

John Healey: The Department does not make estimates of rebilling costs arising from capping action. Any rebilling costs are met by capped authorities from within existing budgets.

Housing Corporation: Public Relations

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 911-2W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, which public affairs consultancies were hired by *(a)* the Housing Corporation and *(b)* English Partnerships in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse of such hiring was in each case; and for what purposes public affairs consultancies were hired by the agencies in the period. [277124]

Margaret Beckett: English Partnerships made no payments for public affairs work in the years 2005-06, 2006-07 or 2007-08. It is possible that some spend in relation to community consultation and engagement on specific projects may have involved public affairs firms, but it is not possible to separately identify these other than at disproportionate cost.

The only public affairs firm used by the Housing Corporation was APCO. The Housing Corporation made no payments for public affairs work in the years 2005-06 or 2006-07. In 2007-08 payments totalling £7,801 were made to APCO for the purposes of an article written by the then Chairman of the Housing Corporation, and for consultancy work associated with transition.

Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings her Department has had with business rates software providers to local authorities to discuss the system requirements and costs in relation to implementation of the business rates deferral scheme announced on 31 March 2009; and if she will make a statement. [278083]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government officials have held informal discussions with business rate software providers, convened by the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation, to discuss implementation of the scheme.

Software providers have also been provided with the information we have shared with all English billing authorities via two business rates information letters sent out on 31 March and 12 May. These letters are available publicly at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/busratsl.htm

Non-Domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the quarterly receipts from business rates in each local authority were in each year since 2005; what the projected receipts are for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement. [277463]

John Healey: The information is not currently available.

However, details of the amount of national non-domestic rates local authorities expect to collect in 2009-10 were published on Thursday 28 May in a Statistical Release that is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nondomesticrates200910f.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many port operators have opted for the fast-track review of their business rate assessment offered by her Department; how many such reviews have been completed to date; and how long on average it has taken to complete such reviews to date. [277773]

John Healey: Following implementation by the Valuation Office Agency, on 24 November 2008, of fast track arrangements for ratepayers with backdated bills who want to question or challenge their assessment, 261 formal proposals, more commonly referred to as appeals, have been received. All have been handled under the "fast track" arrangements. As of 27 May 2009, 57 of these have been fully settled. The average duration between receipt and full settlement of an appeal is 45 days.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to publish each quarter a report of *(a)* the number and percentage of port operators required to pay business rates retrospectively that have made payments, *(b)* the number of port operators that have not paid retrospective business rates and *(c)* the number of port operators that have ceased trading in the preceding quarter. [277774]

John Healey: The information requested is not available centrally.

Right to Buy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many preserved Right to Buy sales there have been in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [277996]

Margaret Beckett: Figures for preserved right to buy (PRTB) sales are not available at individual local authority area. The following table shows the total number of PRTB sales by registered social landlords from 2000-01.

Number of preserved right to buy sales, England

	Number of sales
2007-08	2,812
2006-07	3,910
2005-06	5,014
2004-05	7,331
2003-04	11,699
2002-03	8,858
2001-02	6,650
2000-01	5,211

Note:
Early figures on PRTB sales are not available from RSR returns.
Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Return by Registered Social Landlords.

Social Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 450-51W, on housing: low incomes, what the net change to the stock of homes for social rent was in each year since 1997. [275658]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the net change to the dwelling stock of social rented dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords in each year from 1997.

	Net change in social rented dwelling stock (Thousand)
1997	-25.9
1998	-36.7
1999	-25.3
2000	-39.1
2001	-48.3
2002	25.9
2003	-67.1
2004	-85.6
2005	-63.4
2006	-43.8
2007	-55.2
2008	-14.6

Source:
Census 2001; Housing Flows Reconciliation and joint returns by local authorities; Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities; Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes for social rent were *(a)* built and *(b)* acquired in each year since 1980. [277995]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the number of homes built and acquired for social rent in each year from 1991-92. Figures for the supply of homes for social rent are not available prior to this time.

England	*New Build*	*Acquisitions*	*Other*	*Total for social rent*
1991-92	21,770	3,940	—	25,710
1992-93	39,510	17,510	—	57,020
1993-94	40,270	8,670	—	48,940
1994-95	40,720	11,470	—	52,190
1995-96	44,220	12,730	—	56,950
1996-97	29,600	12,870	—	42,470

England	*New Build*	*Acquisitions*	*Other*	*Total for social rent*
1997-98	24,020	11,770	—	35,780
1998-99	22,620	10,960	—	33,580
1999-2000	19,610	9,180	—	28,790
2000-01	18,230	8,860	—	27,090
2001-02	18,640	8,170	—	26,810
2002-03	17,510	6,450	—	23,960
2003-04	18,370	4,290	—	22,660
2004-05	18,790	2,890	—	21,670
2005-06	20,510	2,460	660	23,630
2006-07	21,500	2,450	790	24,730
2007-08	25,390	3,390	590	29,370

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG.

Figures from 2005-06 onwards for Recycled Capital Grant Fund, Disposal Proceeds Fund, and remodelled units cannot be broken down into new build and acquisitions.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many registered social landlords requested section 9 consent to dispose in each of the last three years; and how many of those requests were granted. [278023]

Margaret Beckett: The total number of section 9 consents granted in each of the last three years was as follows:

	Total granted
2006-07	1,463
2007-08	2,223
2008-09	2,025

Information about unsuccessful applications for section 9 consents was not collected in these years. Changes were made to the system for collating consents data in July 2008 and, as a result of these changes, the TSA will retain information on all applications from 2009-10 onwards.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 8 June 2009

WALES

Departmental Publications

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what booklets have been produced for publication by the Wales Office since 1 January 2005; and what the *(a)* print run, *(b)* production cost, *(c)* distribution costs and *(d)* cover price was of each such booklet. [278392]

Mr. Hain: Since January 2005 the Wales Office has published two booklets for public distribution. These were in addition to parliamentary papers.

The first booklet from March 2007 was produced to mark the 200 year anniversary of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act and was entitled Slavery and Wales with a print run of 12,000 at a cost of £3,925. These booklets were sent to Welsh MPs, Lords with Welsh interests, Assembly members, all primary and secondary schools in Wales, all libraries in Wales, all National Trust sites in Wales, the Waterfront Museum, the Paul Robeson Trust and local history groups. There was no cover charge.

The second booklet from May 2009 entitled Real Help for Wales Now provides a guide to the UK Government and Welsh Assembly Government initiatives available to help businesses and people through the recession. It had a print run of 2,000 at a cost of £3,444. These booklets were distributed to all Welsh MPs and Assembly members, all Welsh local authorities and Jobcentre Plus in Cardiff. Copies were also provided when meeting with businesses throughout Wales and to attendees at economic summits. Again there was no cover charge.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Dismissal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Leader of the House how many members of staff in her office were dismissed *(a)* for under-performance and *(b)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [278382]

Chris Bryant: No members of staff have been dismissed from the office since June 2007.

The office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007. Information from before this time can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland: Publications

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what publications Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland has made in the last five financial years; how much each publication cost; and to whom they were distributed. [277752]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, which operates independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Lady to write to Dr. Michael Maguire, the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland.

Community Safety Partnerships: County Down

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which organisations are represented on the North Down Community Safety Partnership; which organisations received funding from the partnership in each of the last three years; and how much each received. [277751]

Paul Goggins: Organisations represented on the North Down Community Safety Partnership membership are:

North Down PSNI; Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Age Concern; North Down Community Network; Bangor and Holywood Town Centre Management; North Down Victim Support; Northern Ireland Probation Service; South Eastern Education and Library Board; Supporting Communities Northern Ireland; North Down District Policing Partnership; Bangor and Holywood Clergy Fellowship; South Eastern and Social Care Trust and Elected Representatives from North Down borough council (four UUP, four DUP, four Alliance and one Independent).

Details of the organisations in North Down which have received funding from the Partnership over the last three years along with how much each received is set out in the following table.

£

	Funding			
Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
North Down Women's Aid	8,270	4,120	11,000	23,390
North Down Community Network	23,391	13,250	16,886	53,527
North Down Age Concern	6,200	12,700	21,125	40,025
North Down PSNI	7,900	4,750	0	12,650
Bangor and Holywood Town Centre Management	16,800	12,830	19,280	48,910
Comber Drugs Awareness Programme	2,500	£2,500	0	£5,000
Fountain Drug and Alcohol Programme	0	£26,000	0	£26,000
Bangor and Holywood Clergy Fellowship	0	£7,000	£8,359	£15,359
Bloomfield Community Association	0	1,490	0	1,490
Breezemount Community Association	0	1,207	0	1,207
Holywood Family Trust	0	980	0	980
Whitehill Community Association	0	1,400	0	1,400
Trinity Presbyterian Church	0	1,460	0	1,460
Kings Fellowship	0	1,426	0	1,426

£

	Funding			
Organisation	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Total	65,061	91,113	76,650	232,824

Crime: Wildlife

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to raise awareness of criminal offences involving wildlife. [277322]

Paul Goggins: The creation of criminal offences and penalties is a reserved matter under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and an Assembly Bill containing a reserved matter requires the consent of the Secretary of State. However, it is in practice for the relevant Northern Ireland Minister to decide how best to raise awareness of criminal offences within devolved policy areas such as wildlife. In the case of offences involving the protection of wildlife, this would fall to the Environment Minister.

Departmental Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* review and *(b)* taskforce projects his Department has commissioned in each of the last five years; what the purpose of each such project is; when each such project (i) began and (ii) was completed; what the cost of each such project was; and if he will make a statement. [275978]

Paul Goggins: Summary information on taskforces and other standing bodies is available in the annual Cabinet Office publication, 'Public Bodies'. Copies of 'Public Bodies 2008' are available in the Libraries of the House. Detailed information on ad hoc advisory bodies is published in the annual Northern Ireland Office departmental report and also on the departmental website:

www.nio.gov.uk

Information about reviews commissioned since the Department's creation is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many breaches of security have been reported at *(a)* the Compensation Agency, *(b)* the Forensic Science Northern Ireland, *(c)* the Northern Ireland Prison Service and *(d)* the Youth Justice Agency in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276949]

Mr. Woodward: In the period specified, there were five security breaches in the Northern Ireland Prison Service, three in the Forensic Science agency and one in the Youth Justice Agency. There were no reported security breaches in the Compensation Agency.

When a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data, the agencies follow the Northern Ireland Office incident response policy.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275340]

Paul Goggins: We do not keep a record of the proportion of office supplies purchased that are recycled products. Our stationery suppliers provide a range of products made from recycled materials some of which we purchase.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what activities have been undertaken by his Department's euro Minister in that capacity. [277163]

Paul Goggins: Euro Ministers are responsible for euro preparations in their Department and attend euro Ministers Steering Group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover.

Industrial Health and Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [274537]

Mr. Woodward: Expenditure to ensure compliance with health and safety at work legislation can include various costs, such as building related works and training for staff.

Details of building works related to health and safety compliance are not recorded separately from general building works and therefore could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

My Department strives to ensure compliance with health and safety at work legislation through training and development of staff. Expenditure on health and safety training and development in each of the last five years is as follows:

	£
2004-05	[1]—
2005-06	8,170
2006-07	6,000
2007-08	6,000
2008-09	[2]27,229

[1] Staff costs only (training provided in-house).

[2] Including the extension of a contract to enable health and safety e-learning training to be provided for all staff.

Mortgages

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate his Department has made of the number of home-owners in Northern Ireland who are in negative equity. [277323]

Paul Goggins: The Government do not hold this information. Such estimates may be available from commercial lenders or their representative bodies.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Free Theatre Initiative

9. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tickets have been distributed under his Department's free theatre initiative. [278196]

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tickets have been distributed under his Department's free theatre initiative. [278193]

Mr. Bradshaw: A Night Less Ordinary, which offers free theatre tickets to young people under 26, was launched by Arts Council England in February.

Data for the first quarter of the scheme are being collated and will be published by mid-July 2009.

Early feedback from participating venues and young theatre goers, alongside the impressive number of website visitors suggests that the scheme has proved immensely popular so far.

Economic Recovery

10. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of the cultural sector towards economic recovery. [278197]

Barbara Follett: The cultural sector is already addressing the economic and social impacts of the recession and continues to contribute to recovery. The creative industries represent 6.4 per cent. of GVA and over the past decade have been growing faster than the economy as a whole. This comes at the end of a decade of record Government investment in culture.

Last month we published "Lifting People, Lifting Places", outlining how Government can offer further support, by developing employment opportunities in culture and the creative industries, measures to transform town centres and other approaches to building the new economy with culture and creativity at its heart.

Digital Switchover

11. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure that understanding and usage of audio description by elderly people is promoted as part of digital switchover. [278199]

Mr. Bradshaw: Audio description is referred to across Digital UK's communications campaign and on its website. It is also included in the information and materials distributed by Digital UK to a range of charities. Digital UK and the Switchover Help Scheme also work in partnership with the Royal National Institute for the Blind who run their own awareness campaigns.

Community Sport

12. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the recession on community sports clubs. [278200]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Local Media

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the outcome was of his Department's recent summit on local media; and if he will make a statement. [278201]

Mr. Bradshaw: The local media summit on 28 April 2009 explored the issues and challenges facing local and regional news and media. This will be taken forward in the final Digital Britain report due to be published shortly.

Cricket

14. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sports clubs in receipt of public funds field under-18 cricket teams to play competitive fixtures. [278202]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held by my Department. The England and Wales Cricket Board have been awarded £37.8 million to deliver their 2009-13 plan for the whole of cricket, the largest award made to any sport. Through the PE and School Sport Strategy for Young People we are also investing £25.5 million in a new network of competition managers, who will co-ordinate inter-school competition for a variety of sports, including cricket.

Community Arts: Coventry

16. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department allocated to community arts programmes in Coventry in each of the last three years. [278204]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England (ACE) invested £1,579,691 in regularly funded organisations in Coventry in 2006-07; £1,722,974 in 2007-08 and £1,823,059 in 2008-09. Many of these organisations are actively engaged in community arts and a proportion of their core funding supports this work. ACE also awarded grants for the arts awards of £5,000 in 2006-07; £14,218 in 2007-08 and £5,000 in 2008-09 to projects with a specific focus on, or element of, community arts.

UK Television Content

17. **Derek Wyatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with commercial broadcasters on their funding of original UK television content. [278205]

Mr. Bradshaw: My predecessor my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) had regular discussions with all the commercial broadcasters to discuss a wide range of issues, including their funding of original UK television content.

Tourism

18. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the recession on the tourist industry; and if he will make a statement. [278206]

Barbara Follett: The position is mixed. While spend in some areas appears to be down, other parts of the domestic tourism industry have received a boost from favourable currency exchange rates. There are still significant opportunities opening up from which the industry will benefit. These include the unprecedented decade of world class sporting events on which we are embarking, and in particular the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

It is clear however that these remain challenging times for the industry.

Horserace Betting Levy Board

19. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the appointment of a new chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board; and if he will make a statement. [278207]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The chair position was first advertised in March 2009. We received fewer applications than we would normally expect for such a role and we therefore re-advertised the position, with a closing date of 19 June. Recruitment consultants have been engaged to help us make the most of this additional time. The new applications attracted, together with those received earlier, will be assessed on an equal basis against the original selection criteria.

Play: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding each of the 89 local authorities awarded funding under the National Play Strategy in December 2008 has received. [276975]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

63 local authorities began receiving play funding from April 2008. This was the first wave of the children's plan play capital investment programme. The National Play Strategy, which was published in December 2008, announced that Government would be accelerating the capital programme so that all of the remaining 89 top tier local authorities in England would receive funding from April 2009 as wave 2 of the investment programme. This means that all 152 local authorities will be receiving play capital, and associated revenue, funding during the 2009-10 financial year.

The conditions of grant letter, issued in February 2009, outlined that local authorities would receive their capital and revenue allocations in two equal payments during 2009-10. By the end of May, local authorities received the first payment of this financial year. Tables which show the allocations for each local authority to the end of the current financial year have been placed in the House Libraries.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277723]

Gillian Merron: It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. The Government are undertaking a climate change risk assessment and economic analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act 2008 coming in to force.

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 61, paragraph 15.6 of the 2009 Value for Money Update, which activities *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas have been designated as lower priority activities; and what estimate his Department has made of the savings to be made in respect of each such activity by 2010-11. [277489]

David Miliband: A full breakdown of all allocative efficiencies (the reassignment of resources from lower to higher priority areas) achieved for 2008-09 and forecasts for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are scheduled to be published in our 2009 departmental report next month. The report will be available in hard copy and on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website. A copy of the report will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278735]

Gillian Merron: In 2008-09, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office reported no losses of personal data to the Information Commissioner.

EU Institutions: Manpower

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made a projection of trends in the proportion of the staff of European Union institutions made up of UK nationals over the next *(a)* 10 and *(b)* 20 years. [278644]

David Miliband: There have been no specific projections made. The Government are clear that it is in the EU and UK's interests to be fully represented and to have UK officials working at the heart of the EU's institutions.

EU Relations

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* his counterparts from other EU member states on the EU's (i) policies and (ii) strategies for promoting democracy. [278079]

Caroline Flint: For the EU, democracy is both a core value and an essential aspect of internal and external policies. There is growing agreement among EU member states on the need to develop an EU consensus on democracy that sets out the EU vision. The aim of the consensus would be to implement existing EU policies on democracy more effectively, focusing on consistency, coherence and co-ordination in the use of the instruments available to the EU. It would bring about change in as much as EU activities will be designed and implemented in ways that support democratic processes and strengthen democratic principles. The consensus would also clarify the EU's position and make it more visible so that not only third countries, but also EU citizens, know what we mean when we talk about democracy and the principles and values that sustain it.

The UK is working with the Czech presidency of the EU along with other EU member states, the Council Secretariat and the Commission to draw up this coherent EU approach. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has played an active role in the EU working group and will support the upcoming Swedish presidency in working towards Council Conclusions in November 2009 with the aim of developing an EU consensus.

European Union

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates he had *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings with the European Union Special Representative for Afghanistan on the situation in that country in the last 12 months. [274806]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 May 2009]*: My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, met with the EU Special Representative (EUSR), Ettore Sequi, on 25 November 2008 during his visit to the UK. Senior officials, including representatives from both our embassy in Kabul and the UK's Permanent Representation to the EU (UKRep) regularly meet with the EUSR to discuss Afghanistan. Most recently, our ambassador to the Political and Security Committee, Tim Barrow, met the EUSR on 8 May 2009.

Hezbollah

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the Government's decision to explore contacts with the political wing of Hezbollah on Hezbollah's *(a)* actions, *(b)* policies and *(c)* structure. [278662]

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of his Department's performance in encouraging Hezbollah to renounce violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanon and the wider region. [278683]

Bill Rammell: On 9 January 2009 our ambassador in Beirut attended a meeting of British parliamentarians with the Lebanese Foreign Affairs Committee. Representatives of all members of the National Unity Government were present, including one MP from Hezbollah's political wing, Ali Amar. During this meeting the ambassador urged all sides to show restraint during the crisis in Gaza, and the importance of all sides respecting the terms of UN Security Council resolution 1701. In the course of normal diplomatic business, staff at our embassy in Beirut have also met Hezbollah politicians on a number of occasions. However, there have been no official meetings since 9 January.

We continue to believe that occasional and carefully considered contacts with Hezbollah's politicians, including its MPs, will best advance our objective of urging Hezbollah to reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics, in line with UN Security Council resolutions.

India: Prisoners

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has received regarding the detention by the Indian authorities of Dr. Binayak Sen; and what steps he has taken as a result. [278334]

Bill Rammell: In 2009 we have received six letters from members of the public and one parliamentary question regarding the detention of Dr. Binayak Sen by the Indian authorities.

Working with EU colleagues in India, we have registered our concern with the central Government, writing to the Ministry of External Affairs, the National Human Rights Commission and a number of senior political leaders about the case.

Dr. Sen was granted bail on 25 May 2009. The EU has sent observers to the various stages of his judicial hearings so far and plans to attend the next trial session expected to be held in June 2009.

The rights of human rights defenders including Dr. Sen, were discussed at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue held on 27 February 2009. Our high commission in New Delhi and EU colleagues will continue to monitor this case in cooperation with non-governmental organisations in accordance with EU guidance for the protection of human rights defenders.

Kosovo: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on establishing diplomatic relations with the Republic of Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [273846]

Caroline Flint: The UK established its embassy in Pristina on 18 February 2008, the day after the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Kosovo. The current British ambassador to Kosovo is Mr. Andrew Sparkes CMG.

Kosovo's Chargé d'Affaires to the UK was appointed on 20 October 2008. The embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in London was officially opened on 2 March 2009.

North Korea: Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on whether the plutonium production reactor at Yongbyon in North Korea was based on the published blueprints of the first generation Magnox reactors developed by the UK Atomic Energy Authority; what recent discussions he has had with the International Atomic Energy Agency on that reactor; and what representations he has made to the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on its announcement on the testing of a nuclear device. [278418]

Bill Rammell: We do not know whether the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has drawn on plans of British reactors in the production of its own reactors. The reactor at Yongbyon, while much smaller, has generic similarities to certain UK Magnox reactors, design information for which has been in the public domain for over 30 years.

The International Atomic Energy Authority provides regular reports to its board of governors, of which we are a member, on its activities in the DPRK. In addition to public statements from my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, I expressed the Government's strong condemnation of the nuclear test to the DPRK ambassador to London on 25 May 2009 and again on 1 June 2009. Our ambassador in Pyongyang made representations in DPRK to the Director Europe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 June 2009 to reiterate our concerns. We are working with partners at the UN Security Council to deliver a strong response to the test.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made at the UN Conference on Disarmament on the negotiation of a treaty prohibiting the production of fissionable materials for nuclear weapons. [278600]

Bill Rammell: The UN Conference on Disarmament formally adopted a Programme of Work (CD/1863) on 29 May 2009 which includes negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) based on the 1995 Shannon mandate.

We welcome this decision. Opening negotiations on an FMCT has long been a UK objective.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received in the case of Qamar David, on trial in Karachi on blasphemy charges; what representations he has made to the government of Pakistan on the case; and if he will make a statement. [276191]

Bill Rammell: Officials at our high commission in Islamabad are monitoring Mr. David's case. The next court hearing is scheduled for 16 June 2009. While legal proceedings are in progress, we are unable to intervene. As such we have not specifically raised Mr. David's case with the Government of Pakistan.

Bilaterally and with our EU partners we have raised the frequent abuse of Pakistan's blasphemy legislation and have called for reform or repeal of these discriminatory laws.

Republic of Ireland: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the EU has spent on providing information in Ireland on the treaty of Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [277126]

Caroline Flint: I am not aware of how much the EU has spent on providing information in Ireland specifically on the treaty of Lisbon. I understand that the European Commission will provide €1.8 million for 2009 and 2010 to improve the provision of public information on the EU in Ireland. Similar arrangements exist in other EU member states. Communications activities will cover a large variety of European policy areas. For 2009, the priorities are the European Parliament elections, energy and climate change, 20th anniversary of the democratic changes in Central and Eastern Europe and Europe's response to the financial crisis and economic slowdown.

Further information can be found on the European Commission's website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/press_office/news_of_the_day/public-info-contr_en.htm

Tibet: Politics and Government

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department next plans to assess the *(a)* political and *(b)* human rights situation in Tibet. [278479]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office makes regular assessments of the political and human rights situation in Tibet.

Staff from our embassy in Beijing were most recently able to visit Tibet in May this year. There they were able to assess the situation of the Tibetan people, and found that many monasteries were able to carry out daily religious rites without obvious interference, though there was clear evidence of continued government restrictions in matters such as the numbers of monks and reverence of the Dalai Lama. In general security force presence had returned to similar levels as before the riots in March 2008. The exception was in the old town of Lhasa where there had been a visible increase. Embassy representatives heard that in future access to Tibet for foreigners, including tourists and official visitors would continue to ease. I intend to pursue our concerns in further detail during my own visit to Tibet later next month.

OLYMPICS

Shooting Venue

5. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent representations she has received on the shooting venue for the London 2012 Olympics. [278222]

Tessa Jowell: I have received around 140 representations since the Olympic Board confirmed Woolwich as the shooting venue in March, including from the hon. Member and 116 other MPs on behalf of their constituents, Southern Counties Shooting Limited and other members of the public.

Environmental Sustainability

7. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make it her policy to ensure that the London 2012 Olympics are environmentally sustainable. [278224]

Tessa Jowell: Sustainability was at the heart of our bid to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and remains so—we are fully committed to ensuring both the Olympic and Paralympic Games are the most sustainable of modern times.

The Games in London will set new standards of sustainable development, with the Olympic Park and venues being designed and built according to sustainable principles.

At the sailing venue in Weymouth and Portland for example, 15-20 per cent. of its electricity is generated by on-site solar panels, all captured rain water is being recycled, and sustainable transport networks are being installed to and from the venue, from cycling and walking paths, to park and ride schemes.

Sporting and Cultural Activities

8. **Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent discussions she has had with representatives of local authorities on their involvement in sporting and cultural activities which embody the spirit of the London 2012 Olympics. [278225]

Tessa Jowell: I meet regularly with local authorities in my visits around the country and there are regular discussions between my officials and local authorities on a wide range of Games related issues.

The London 2012 Open Weekend will be held across the UK between 24-26 July 2009.1 encourage local authorities, sports, arts, and cultural organisations to register their projects as part of the London 2012 Inspire programme and to showcase their work at Open Weekend.

Already over 90 Cultural Olympiad projects are included as part of the Inspire programme.

Paralympics

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what criteria will be used to judge the success of the London 2012 Paralympics. [278220]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in London 2012 will set new standards in accessibility for venues, accommodation and transport, providing a greater athlete, official and spectator experience.

For the first time the Paralympic Games is fully integrated into the organising committee's plans. We are committed to delivering full arenas, accessible infrastructure, and of course more British medals.

Apprenticeships

Joan Ryan: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the number of apprenticeships that will be available on sites being developed to host the London 2012 Olympics. [278223]

Tessa Jowell: In January this year, the ODA announced that an additional 250 apprenticeships would be created on the Olympic Park and Village, bringing the total number to 350. To achieve this, the ODA will mandate that apprentices make up 3 per cent. of project work forces for the remaining £500 million worth of contracts. This exceeds the industry average for London and the south-east.

This increases the ODA's overall target for trainees, apprentices and work placements to 2,250.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel taking rest and recuperation from Operation Herrick in Afghanistan have been delayed for more than 24 hours awaiting their return flight to Afghanistan from Brize Norton since 1 January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [260366]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 3 March 2009]*: We record information relating to flight delays, but we do not centrally hold information on why individual travellers are delayed or the purpose of their travel. Therefore, this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilians have been killed by enhanced blast munitions in Afghanistan since 2007. [278090]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 622-63W, to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram).

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1993W and 24 February 2009 *Official Report*, column 741W, on apprentices, for what reasons the number of apprenticeships in his Department declined from 2007-08 to 2008-09. [262699]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In the 2007-08 reporting period, the Department delivered 8,758 armed forces and civil service apprentice completions. The apprenticeships detailed in my written answer on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 741W, refers to a specific pilot scheme for civil servants and not the entire departmental number of apprentice completions. The Department will collate the details of armed forces and civil service apprentice completions during 2008-09 in August 2009. At this stage, we can not compare figures from both 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Armed Forces: Foreigners

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of personnel in each regiment of the Army were Commonwealth soldiers at the latest date for which figures are available. [278243]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Personnel data by regiment are not held in the format requested. However, the following Army figures provided are available.

Training Regular Army Commonwealth Officers and Soldiers as at 1 April 2009

Army/Service	*Number[1] of personnel with a Commonwealth nationality*	*Percentage of personnel with a Commonwealth nationality*
Total	6,380	6.8
Staff	0	0
HCAV/RAC	250	4.5
RA	635	8.8
RE	375	4.2
R SIGNALS	180	2.3
INF	1,725	7.4
AAC	100	4.8
RAChD	*	*
RLC	1,995	13.5
RAMC	230	7.8
REME	340	3.6
AGC (RMP)	20	1.2
AGC (SPS)	335	9.6
AGC (MPS)	*	*
AGC(ETS)	5	2.0
AGC(ALS)	*	*
AGC (Unknown)	5	12.8
RAVC	5	2.4
SASC	0	0
RADC	55	14.4
INT CORPS	*	*
APTC	*	*
QARANC	95	11.7
CAMus	10	1.5
GSC	0	0
LSL	*	*
No Value	0	0

[1] denotes provisional. Due to the ongoing validation of data on the Joint Personnel Administration System all Army data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.

Notes:

1. Percentages have been calculated using a denominator that includes all trained regular strength with a known nationality. It therefore excludes FTRS and Gurkhas but includes those individuals who have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
2. Totals have been rounded to the nearest 10 for presentation purposes.
3. Data have been rounded to the nearest 5 to limit disclosure and ensure confidentiality
4. Data less than 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*".
5. Totals have been rounded separately and so may not appear to be the sum of their parts.

Defence: Finance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the estimate in the 2006 Defence White Paper that running costs of the proposed future deterrent would represent 5 to 6 per cent. of the defence budget included the costs of *(a)* conventional forces supporting the deterrent and *(b)* decommissioning replacement submarines. [277761]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The estimate of the running costs contained within the White Paper does not include an allocation for those occasions when conventional forces are used to support the deterrent but does include the initial decommissioning costs for the replacement submarines.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred in administering its bonus scheme for staff in each financial year since 2005-06. [277913]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The performance award arrangements for staff in the Ministry of Defence are part of the continuous performance management process between managers and staff throughout the year. Although the culmination of the performance management process may result in a performance payment being made, the expenditure on the various constituents of the process which contribute towards the final payment of the award could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Health

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 1 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1277-78W, on ex-servicemen: mental health, what support his Department has provided for the community mental health pilot projects for veterans; and if he will make a statement. [278848]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It has been the policy of successive Governments that the NHS should be the main provider of treatment for veterans. The NHS is therefore taking the lead for the six Community Mental Health pilots; the MOD has provided the start up costs for the six pilot sites and will meet the costs of the evaluation, £0.5 million. Veterans are also designated as a Special Interest Group (SIG) in the Department of Health's £173 million Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Programme. In addition, to assist those veterans not in the catchment areas of one of the pilots, we have expanded our Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St. Thomas' hospital, London, to include assessment of veterans with mental health symptoms with operational service since 1982.

Ex-servicemen: Vocational Guidance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the Careers Transition Partnership scheme in each year since 1998. [274970]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I will write to the hon. member.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Dr. Fox:

I undertook to write to you with an answer to your Parliamentary Question on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 948W. I am now able to provide a breakdown of spend per financial year on the Career Transition Partnership Scheme. The Career Transition Partnership (CTP) is a partnership between the Ministry of Defence and Right Management Consultants. As you may be aware, the inception of the CTP contract was in October 1998, which is why the spend figure for financial year 1998-99 is lower than subsequent years.

The figure for spend in each financial year is shown in the table below, these figures exclude VAT.

Financial year	*Spend*[1] *(£ million)*
1998-99	2.1
1999-2000	5.7
2000-01	6.2
2001-02	6.4
2002-03	6.3
2003-04	6.5
2004-05	7.1
2005-06	8.2
2006-07	8.9
2007-08	9.0
2008-09	8.2

[1]Rounded to nearest £100,000.

Fremington Army Camp

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Fremington Army Camp in *(a)* preparing service personnel for operations and *(b)* provision of cadet training; [278135]

(2) if he will estimate the disposal value of the site of Fremington Army Camp *(a)* with and *(b)* without the enhanced access route necessary for planning permission for the site's development. [278136]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Fremington Camp, built in 1943, provides classrooms, accommodation and associated facilities for personnel conducting operational driver crew training at Braunton Burrows. The Cadets and University Officer Training Corps also use Fremington Camp between June and August.

It was confirmed last month that as the camp has reached the end of its economic life, its usage will be run down in line with its planned closure in March 2010.

Although a market valuation has been carried out for internal decision making purposes, it is not our policy to release such valuations as to do so could influence the market, and thus potentially disadvantage the taxpayer in the event of a disposal.

Kenley Airfield

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of *(a)* purchasing and *(b)* installing the interim fencing at Kenley airfield is. [278585]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The cost of purchasing and delivering the pedestrian safety barriers to Kenley airfield was £11,250 excluding VAT. The labour costs associated with installation were £425 excluding VAT. RAF personnel also assisted with installation.

Maritime Airborne Surveillance System Programme

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to take the main gate decision for the Maritime Airborne Surveillance system; and what estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the system. [277760]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We expect to make our main investment decision next year, at which point costs will be known.

Met Office: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations contained in the Pitt report on flooding regarding the Met Office's forecasting and flood prediction methodology; what research he has commissioned to support such implementation; and when he expects such research to be completed. [278326]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Noting the key role it plays in flood risk management, the Met Office is committed to improving its forecasting capability to meet the needs of emergency responders. Following a major investment in supercomputing it is already exploiting a new, highly detailed, forecast model that provides significantly improved support for the issue of flood related warnings. Building on this capability, in line with recommendation 3 of the Pitt review, the Met Office has developed a detailed research plan and started work which will further enhance its ability to forecast local-scale heavy rainfall events and further increase the amount of warning it is able to give to responders for such events. This research programme is due to be completed by summer 2012 in line with the timetable outlined by the Government in response to the Pitt review, although some benefits will be realised before this.

Military Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the new *(a)* 4x4 Supacat Jackal 2 patrol vehicles and *(b)* 6x6 Coyote tactical support variant vehicles to be delivered to the Army. [277908]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is anticipated that deliveries to Afghanistan of both Jackal 2 and Coyote will commence in July 2009.

Motor Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department incurred on *(a)* leasing and *(b)* maintaining white fleet vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available; for what purposes his Department leases such vehicles; how many (i) civilians and (ii) service personnel have used his Department's white fleet vehicles in the latest period for which figures are available; and for what purposes in each case. [277762]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has two lease-agreements in place for the provision of the majority of non-operational cars, i.e. white fleet vehicles. During FY 2008-09 the provision of leased vehicles under the UK and British Forces Germany white fleet contracts cost the Department approximately £82 million. It is not possible to separate the cost of maintaining the leased vehicles because the daily rate charge for vehicle provision includes the cost to the contractor of procuring the vehicles, routine servicing and maintenance, the provision of a recovery service, eventual disposal of the vehicle, and administrative overheads incurred by the service provider.

White fleet vehicles are leased for use in non-deployable administrative and support roles and transporting personnel and equipment. All MOD personnel, both military and civilian, are eligible to use white fleet vehicles on authorised duty journeys. The control and management of these vehicles is undertaken at unit level. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Navy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which principal Royal Navy ships are currently deployed with at least one helicopter on board. [278041]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HM Ships Ocean, Illustrious, Manchester, Cornwall, Cumberland, Portland, Somerset, Northumberland, Richmond, Westminster, Kent, and St. Albans are currently deployed with one or more helicopters.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons classified documents relating to Royal Navy submarines were erroneously delivered to a metal armaments company in Swadlincote; and if he will make a statement. [278042]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The documents in question were not MOD property; they belonged to a defence engineering supplier who had arranged for them to be taken to the TNT archive facility in Swadlincote.

The circumstances and the content of the boxes have, however, been examined by Defence Equipment and Support security staff who are satisfied that none of the documents were classified above restricted and did not represent a security risk. I have been reassured that the company have put improved processes in place to prevent a recurrence.

Navy: Deployment

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is his Department's policy to keep Royal Navy warships at sea for longer periods when required operationally by allocating two crews to each vessel. [278245]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It is not the Department's policy to keep Royal Navy warships at sea for longer periods when required operationally by routinely allocating two crews to each vessel. The Royal Navy has traditionally employed different manning solutions on different platforms, depending on operational and personnel needs. Recent trials of more naval approaches have shown no advantage over this traditional, mixed approach.

RAF St. Athan

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when construction work on the St. Athan military academy is expected to start. [278091]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Construction at the St. Athan site will begin shortly after Contract Signature for the Defence Training College, which is anticipated to be signed in the summer of 2010.

Reserve Forces: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable has been set for reaching the target personnel establishment for the *(a)* Territorial Army and *(b)* reserve forces. [277907]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There is no fixed timetable set for reaching the target personnel establishment. However, it will be achieved as soon as possible, subject to normal recruiting and resource constraints, which is anticipated to take a number of years.

Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether each of the boats in the Astute submarine programme are on target to enter service on their scheduled dates. [278043]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1667W. The Astute programme is currently being re-baselined and I will make an announcement in due course.

Trident

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that Initial Gate decisions on the Trident replacement programme are not announced during the 2009 summer adjournment. [277985]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not normal for Parliament to be involved in Initial Gate decisions for procurement projects. I do however propose to update Parliament on progress following the Initial Gate decision.

The main investment decision point, and the point at which we would issue the main contracts to industry for the construction of the new submarines, is still several years away.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will re-evaluate his Department's recommendation for an upgraded Trident missile programme. [278014]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No. On 14 March 2007 the House of Commons voted by a significant margin to accept the recommendations set out in the December 2006 White Paper "The UK's Future Nuclear Deterrent". There has been no substantive change in international security since then that would suggest that a further vote is required.

Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* weapons and *(b)* rounds of ammunition for which (i) his Department has and (ii) the armed forces have responsibility have gone missing in the last 12 months; and what the cost was of the loss of such weapons and ammunition. [277523]

Mr. Quentin Davies: During the last 12 months the following losses were reported, all of which relate to the armed forces:

	Number
Pistols	5
Rifles	6
Sub Machine Guns	1
Machine Guns	3

The approximate total value of these weapons was £22,000. No reliable figures are available with regard to ammunition losses.

TRANSPORT

A1: Gateshead

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is planning to take to reduce traffic delays on the A1 Western Bypass in Gateshead; and if he will make a statement. [278157]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport and the Highways Agency are continuing work on options to address traffic pressures on the A1 Western Bypass in Gateshead, including consideration of major improvements and possible "quick wins". In taking this work forward the Highways Agency is also liaising with officers from both Gateshead and Newcastle councils, mindful of possible complementary measures that may be introduced following Tyne and Wear region's earlier 'People in Motion' study.

In addition a number of smaller scale operational improvements are planned including improvements to signalisation, road markings, signing, slip roads, safety barriers and driver information.

Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what agenda items were discussed at the most recent meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission; and on what dates the Commission has met in the last 12 months. [278400]

Paul Clark: At the last meeting of the Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission on 27 May, the items discussed were:

Security and border control issues

Safety: Channel Tunnel Safety Authority (CTSA) Report

Eurotunnel formal submissions

European issues

Questions to raise with Eurotunnel

The Channel Tunnel Intergovernmental Commission met six times in the last 12 months on the following dates:

24 July 2008

24 September 2008

26 November 2008

26 January 2009

26 March 2009

27 May 2009.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will seek to secure from the Intergovernmental Commission a reduction in charges levied for train traffic through the Channel Tunnel. [278399]

Paul Clark: The Intergovernmental Commission does not set charges for train traffic through the Channel Tunnel. These are set in the Rail Usage Contract and the Network Statement, which is a matter for Eurotunnel.

Driving Offences: Convictions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many convictions of drivers who failed to inform the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency of their unfitness to drive on medical grounds there have been in each of the last five years. [278072]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is for the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to pursue a prosecution where a driver fails to notify Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) of a medical condition that affects their ability to drive safely. DVLA is not aware of any convictions for failure to notify a medical condition in the last five years.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the average forward booking time for module *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 of the new motorcycle test. [278045]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The latest forward booking times, in weeks, for the practical motorcycling test (modules 1 and 2) are:

Forward booking date at:	*Module one*	*Module two*
4 May 2009	2	2
11 May 2009	3	3
18 May 2009	4	3
25 May 2009	3	2
1 June 2009	3	2
Average	3	2.4

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the percentage of applicants for motorcycle tests who reside within *(a)* 20 miles and *(b)* 45 minutes travel time of a multi-purpose test centre. [278047]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We estimate that 88 per cent. and 97 per cent. of the population are within 20 miles or 45 minutes of a centre delivering module 1 and 2 tests respectively.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for the difference between the percentage increase in fees for driving tests for motorcycles and driving tests for cars in the period between September 2008 and October 2009. [278085]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Between September 2008 and October 2009, the fee increase percentage for a practical car test was 9.7 per cent. (£56.50 to £62); the increase for the on-road element of the motorcycle test was 25 per cent. (£60 to £75).

The main reason for the difference in increase was that the Driving Standards Agency implemented fee increases for its main activities, including practical car tests, in April 2008. Owing to the expectation of the changes being made to the practical motorcycle test later in that year, the fee increase for that test was delayed until the end of September 2008.

A more appropriate comparison is therefore to compare fee levels in March 2008 and October 2009, which include two general fee increases for both activities. This shows an increase in car test fees of 28 per cent. (£48.50 to £62) compared to an increase of 25 per cent. (£60 to £75) for the comparable element of the motorcycle test.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of using or adapting existing testing facilities to deliver both modules of the new motorcycle test until additional multi-purpose test centres are available. [278022]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Utilising existing testing facilities was considered as part of the Driving. Standards Agency's development of options for implementing the new motorcycling test.

The more demanding manoeuvres required and assessed in module 1 need to be conducted off the public highway for road safety purposes. None of the existing test centres had the necessary facilities to offer off-road manoeuvring areas.

Where suitable existing test centres are available they are used to deliver module 2 of the new practical motorcycle test which is delivered on public roads.

Fisheries

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has commissioned on loading guidance for small fishing vessels in the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [276218]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has commissioned three pieces of research on fishing vessels in the last four years. These are:

Suitability of stability criteria applied to small fishing vessels and associated survivability

Loading guidance for fishing vessels less than 12 m registered length phase II

Simplified presentation of fv stability information for vessels 12 m registered length and over phase II.

These reports are available on the MCA's website:

www.mcga.gov.uk

under the news and publications—research menu item.

Lorries

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many heavy goods-vehicle drivers with *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK driving licences drove heavy goods vehicles on UK roads in the latest period for which figures are available. [278257]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Motor Vehicles

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars were registered to owners resident in each English county in each of the last five years. [278029]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* Tables providing the requested information as at 31 December 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Railways: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps have been taken by his Department to ensure adequate emergency welfare support is available to passengers stranded on the rail network in the event of flooding. [278324]

Paul Clark: The review into the 2007 floods conducted by Sir Michael Pitt provided a recommended action for the rail industry to develop plans to provide emergency welfare support to passengers stranded on the rail network. As a result, the Department for Transport has worked with Network Rail to review the current practice in relation to the recommendation.

This practice allows for passengers caught on the network to be given food, drink and any necessary items where conditions require. It does, however, remain the priority of Network Rail to remove passengers from trains, stations and other related areas as soon as it is safe to do so.

Roads: Salisbury

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on upgrading the rail track and bridges on the Southampton diversionary container route via Salisbury. [278371]

Paul Clark: Network Rail's Control Period 4 Delivery Plan published on 31 March 2009 indicates that work is due to commence in late 2010, for completion in early 2014.

South West Trains

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the franchise agreement with South West Trains. [278008]

Paul Clark: A copy of the franchise agreement with South West Trains has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Travel Concessions (Eligible Services) (Amendment) Order 2009

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with local authorities on the provisions of the Travel Concessions (Eligible Services) (Amendment) Order 2009. [278363]

Paul Clark: Local authorities have been involved throughout the policy development. They are represented on both the Concessionary Travel Working Group (CFWG), which requested that the Department revisited the existing order, and the sub-group which was established to examine the issue in detail and develop proposals for change.

There was a public consultation on the proposals, to which 66 local authorities responded with the clear majority in favour of the proposals. Both the CFWG and the sub-group also had the opportunity to comment on the draft order before it was laid before Parliament.

Wolverton Station: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. L[illegible]ncaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects work on the planned upgrade of Wolverton railway station to begin; and what the reasons are for the change in the timetable set for that project. [278424]

Paul Clark: This project is being funded and delivered by Milton Keynes council. The hon. Member should contact the group manager—transport development at the following address for a response to his questions.

Milton Keynes council
Civic Offices
1 Saxon Gate East
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 3EJ

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each police force area in Wales aged *(a)* under 18 years and *(b)* between 18 and 24 years have been (i) cautioned and (ii) prosecuted for alcohol related behaviour in each of the last five years. [270662]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons cautioned for alcohol related behaviour offences in Wales, by police force area and age group, 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in table 1. The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for alcohol related behaviour offences in Wales, by police force area and age group, 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in table 2.

The statistics in table 2 relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

A Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) may also be issued by the police for certain alcohol related offences such as being drunk and disorderly and drunk in a highway. The number of persons issued with a PND for alcohol related behaviour offences in Wales, by police force area and age group, 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are given in table 3. The PND Scheme was implemented in all 43 police force areas in England and Wales in 2004.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: The number of persons cautioned for alcohol related behaviour offences[1] in Wales, by police force area and age group, 2003 to 2007[2,3,4]

Police force area	*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
	Age 10-17	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*
Dyfed-Powys	24	47	34	45	30	35	27	38	29	36
Gwent	37	78	7	11	42	50	76	87	75	146
North Wales	78	63	61	52	61	25	44	14	24	19
South Wales	51	151	99	198	92	152	39	46	16	22
Total	190	339	201	306	225	262	186	185	144	223

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss.1(2)(3)(4) and 1A(2)(3)(4), 2(1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2); Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s. 1; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12, 17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 ss. 5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162, 163, 164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179H(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184, 185, 186, 187(3)(4), 188, 193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D; Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1; Licensing Act 2003 ss. 33, 40, 41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109, 123, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)(7(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 165, 168, 179, 197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22; Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss. 11,27; Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 3; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss. 7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10; Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss. 35, 61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b); similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)]; Licensing Act 1988 s. 17, 18; Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19; Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s. 5; Criminal Justice Act 1996 s. 6.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit [IOS 224-09].

Table 2: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for alcohol related behaviour offences[1] in Wales, by police force area and age group, 2003 to 2007[2,3]

Police force area	*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
	Age 10-17	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*
Dyfed-Powys	29	298	37	336	26	281	31	266	26	286
Gwent	36	456	56	450	57	418	64	411	73	464
North Wales	101	560	85	532	61	405	54	432	49	411
South Wales	101	985	128	1,044	103	1,102	73	876	72	783
Total	267	2,299	306	2,362	247	2,206	222	1,985	220	1,944

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Act 1985 ss.1(2)(3)(4) & 1A(2)(3)(4), 2(1) (2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2); Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s. 1; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12, 17, 25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 ss. 5C(5), 6, 6, 19, 28(3), 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84, 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159, 160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162, 163, 164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A, 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179H(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184, 185, 186, 187(3)(4), 188, 193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D; Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1; Licensing Act 2003 ss. 33, 40, 41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109, 123, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)(7(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151, 152, 153, 156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 165, 168, 179, 197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22; Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss. 11, 27; Road Traffic Act 1991 s. 3; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss. 7(2), 8, 9(1)(4), 10; Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss. 35, 61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) & (5); Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b); similar provisions in Local Acts; Road Traffic Act ss.4(1)(2) s.5(1)(a)(b), s.6(4), s.7(6); Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 3A, 7A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.56, Transport and Works Act 1992 S.31A as added by Police Reform Act 2002 s.52; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 [Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5, 6, 7, 8(2), 9(2)]; Licensing Act 1988 s. 17,18; Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19; Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s. 5; Criminal Justice Act 1996 s. 6.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit [IOS 224-09].

Table 3: The number of penalty notices for disorder given for alcohol related behaviour offences[1,2] in Wales, by police force area and age group, 2004 to 2007[3]

Police force area	*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*	
	Age 10-17	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*	*Age 10-17*	*Age 18-24*
Dyfed-Powys	14	88	25	175	20	183	15	125
Gwent	6	71	26	122	19	177	19	129
North Wales	57	362	123	636	176	724	149	638
South Wales	1	46	45	305	91	430	25	202
Total	78	567	219	1,238	306	1,514	208	1,094

[1] Includes offences under the: Criminal Justice Act 1967 s. 91; Licensing Act 2003 s. 141, 146(1)(3), 149(1)(3)(4), 150(1)(2), 151; Licensing Act 1872 s. 12; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 s. 12;

[2] The offence of being 'drunk and disorderly' moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1st November 2004; Sale of alcohol to a person under 18, Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18, Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery, Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises, Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises, were added to the scheme on 1 November 2004; Sale of alcohol to a drunken person, Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18, were added to the Scheme with effect from 4 April 2005.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit [IOS 224-09].

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total revenue from fines imposed on those selling alcohol to under-age people was in each year since 2003. [262469]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available figures are shown in the following table.

The total amount of fines calculated is based on principal offences and primary disposals only.

The data provided gives the whole amount of fines imposed which will always be higher than the amount collected.

Total amount of fines issued for selling alcohol to person under 18, 2003-07

£

Offence	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to person under 18	—	320	1,400	—	—
Selling etc. intoxicating liquor to person under 18[1] or sale of alcohol to person under 18[2]	89,385	126,310	167,055	218,579	169,688
Allowing sale of alcohol to person under 18	—	—	—	2,755	2,800
Persistently selling alcohol to children	—	—	—	—	—
Total	89,385	126,630	168,455	221,334	172,488

[1] Licensing Act 1964 S.168 A & B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1.

[2] Licensing Act 2003 S.146.

Notes:

1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with and disposals were primary disposals handed out. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe an offender could be issued with more than one disposal for a committed offence.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

(OMSAS)-379-03-09.

Animal Experiments: EU Law

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with animal welfare organisations on the revision of Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. [278112]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The European Commission proposal for a draft directive for the protection of animals used in scientific procedures to replace Directive 86/609/EEC was published in November 2008. My hon. Friend Meg Hillier met the All Party Parliamentary FRAME Group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) earlier in 2009 to discuss aspects of the draft directive. Home Office officials have also met with a wide and representative cross-section of relevant stakeholder groups to discuss its provisions and we are now holding a public consultation on the proposal to inform the Government's negotiating position. The consultation closes on 3 July 2009.

Burglary: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of burglary were reported in Rotherham constituency in each year since 2001. [278080]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police in the Rotherham local authority area and is given in the following table. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and data for 2002-03 onwards are therefore not directly comparable with the data for earlier years.

Burglary offences recorded by the police in the Rotherham local authority area

Financial year	*Burglary in a dwelling*	*Other burglary*	*Total burglary*
2000-01	2,514	3,192	5,706
2001-02	2,567	3,007	5,574
[1]	—	—	—
2002-03	2,680	3,174	5,854
2003-04	2,046	2,607	4,653
2004-05	1,389	1,933	3,322
2005-06	1,374	2,151	3,525
2006-07	1,457	2,106	3,563
2007-08	1,313	1,818	3,131

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002 and figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Crimes of Violence: Elderly

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were committed against those aged 60 years and over in *(a)* Crosby constituency and *(b)* England in each of the last 10 years. [277730]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested in not collected centrally. The age of victims of violent crime offences is not available from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Damian Green

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis was for the claim made by senior officials in her Department that the unauthorised disclosure of information to the hon. Member for Ashford was a potential risk to national security; what representations she has received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public about this issue; and if she will make a statement. [270590]

Mr. Coaker: The Cabinet Office statement, issued on 18 April 2009 makes clear that between 2005 and the start of the police investigation there were a large number of leaks from across Government, including information classified as secret and above—a classification usually given only on national security grounds. In addition, there were about 20 leaks of classified documents directly from the Home Office.

The Director of Public Prosecutions' statement on 16 April 2009 acknowledged that "once the pattern of leaks was established in this case, it was inevitable that a police investigation would follow".

Any leaks are a serious matter. They have a corrosive and damaging effect on the business of Government and undermine the core value of the impartiality of the civil service, as set out in the civil service code.

Ministers received a small amount of correspondence from both members of the public and hon. Members on this issue.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she was informed that the hon. Member for Ashford would not be prosecuted; and if she will make a statement. [270715]

Mr. Coaker: The Director of Public Prosecutions informed my right hon. Friend's office by fax at 10.49 on 16 April 2009 that the hon. Member for Ashford would not be prosecuted. The DPP made a televised statement shortly after 11.00 and issued a press release to this effect at 11.15.

Disclosure of Information

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions her special advisers have had with *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* others on the police investigation into the unauthorised disclosure of documents from her Department. [261458]

Mr. Coaker: No such discussions occurred prior to the arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford on 27 November 2008. Subsequently, Home Office special advisers have had a number of discussions in the course of their normal duties with Ministers, civil servants and others in relation to the investigation of leaks from the Home Office.

Driving Offences: Training

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of persons *(a)* committing traffic offences and *(b)* involved in road traffic accidents have been offered driver rectification courses as an alternative to prosecution in each police authority area in each of the last three years. [277874]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

Data reported to the Home Office on police action relating to motoring offences do not include information on driver rectification courses offered to offenders as an alternative to prosecution.

Theft: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue guidance to police forces on the distinction between *(a)* opportunistic and *(b)* planned theft in the administering of fixed penalty notices. [276906]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

The Government issue operational guidance on the issuing of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) to police forces under section 6 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. This guidance sets out the criteria which should be considered by police officers and makes clear that PNDs should not be issued where the offence is too serious and/or it involves aggravating factors, for example, where a theft has been planned.

Following representations from the hon. Lady and retail trades, the guidance covering shoplifting is being revised to clarify further the type of theft offence for which a penalty notice may be suitable. The new guidance will be issued shortly. However, police officers are accustomed to distinguishing different circumstances in which offences are committed, and no specific guidance will be offered on distinguishing between opportunistic and planned theft.

We are also considering the use of PNDs for retail theft and will report our conclusions to the House shortly.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what risk descriptions are listed in the carbon capture and storage demonstration procurement project risk register; [277732]

(2) which Government Departments contributed to the carbon capture and storage demonstration procurement project risk register; [277738]

(3) what level of *(a)* inherent and *(b)* residual risk has been assigned to each risk in the risk register for the carbon capture and storage demonstration project; and what steps (i) have been taken and (ii) are planned to be taken to mitigate each risk. [277757]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The carbon capture and storage demonstration project team maintains a register of the risks to the competition. In the register, the Department records risks and associated mitigating factors openly and honestly, and away from the gaze of the bidders. The release of this information would not be in the public interest because it might have an inhibiting effect on the frankness and candour of the risk assessments or on the assessment of likelihood and impact of risks, and its release would also prejudice the Department's commercial interests, in particular, the Department's bargaining position and its ability to negotiate a competitive deal with the bidders.

The risk register was originally created by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) but responsibility for it transferred to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) following its creation in October 2008. HM Treasury and Department for Transport indirectly contribute to the risk register through normal project governance. No other Government Departments have contributed to the risk register.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the minimum requirement of net electricity output will be from carbon capture and storage demonstration plants under the demonstration project. [277740]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: For the demonstration project announced in November 2007, we set out in the Project Information Memorandum the expectation that CCS technologies would be demonstrated on the flue gases of 300-400MW electrical output. The minimum requirement of net electrical output for this project will be confirmed in the invitation to negotiate to be issued to bidders.

We will shortly be consulting on proposals for additional demonstration projects and have already set out our intention to consult on a proposed 300MW net electrical output minimum requirement. The minimum requirement will be confirmed after the consultation has been completed.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) when the carbon capture and storage demonstration procurement project risk register was created; when it was last updated; and if he will make a statement; [277886]

(2) what the purpose of the carbon capture and storage demonstration procurement project risk register is; and if he will make a statement. [277887]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* The carbon capture and storage demonstration procurement project risk register was created in June 2007 and was last updated on 29 May 2009.

The risk register is a repository of information about risks affecting the project. It provides identification, estimation, impact evaluation and countermeasures for all risks to the project. It acts as a control tool for the management team to manage the project's exposure to risk and to keep that exposure to an acceptable level in a cost effective way. Risks are evaluated using assessments of likelihood, impact and proximity and are allocated to "owners" to ensure that agreed and documented actions are taken and reported on an ongoing basis.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress has been made in the development of carbon capture and storage technology; and if he will make a statement. [278349]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Barnsley, Central (Mr. Illsley) on 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 631W.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers since its inception. [277158]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: £191,638, excluding VAT.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department paid in end-of-year performance bonuses to *(a)* all staff and *(b)* senior civil service staff in 2008-09; and how many such payments were made. [275257]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has yet to determine the end-of-year performance bonuses for all staff including senior civil service staff for the year 2008-09.

Departmental Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on compliance with requirements of health and safety at work legislation since its creation; and if he will make a statement. [274544]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department occupy buildings and uses support services provided by both the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs. Compliance with the requirements of health and safety at work legislation are included in these services and not separately accounted for.

Departmental Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on IT training for its staff since its creation. [274214]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Work Experience

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many work placements his Department has offered to *(a)* school pupils, *(b)* university students and *(c)* graduates since its creation. [274487]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its creation in October 2008 DECC has offered work placements to:

(a) Three school pupils

(b) Seven university students

(c) Two graduates

Electricite de France

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Vincent De Rivaz, Chief Executive of EDF UK, in respect of his statement on 26 May 2009 that EDF UK will be seeking subsidies from public funds to support new nuclear plants developed by EDF UK at sites in England and Wales. [278385]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No discussions have taken place with Vincent De Rivaz in respect of his statement in the *Financial Times* on 26 May 2009.

The Government agree with the point made by M. De Rivaz that a robust carbon price is likely to be one of the conditions for long-term investment in low carbon power stations like nuclear.

Government have said that the EU ETS will remain the key carbon pricing mechanism, and the Government are confident that they can provide a continuing price signal; however, the Government are keeping open the option of further measures to reinforce the operation of the EU ETS in the UK should this be necessary to provide greater certainty to investors.

Energy

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations his Department and its predecessor have received from *(a)* the Association of Electricity Producers and *(b)* Drax Power Limited since 2005. [276759]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 21 May 2009]:* As the Department responsible for energy and the generation sector, DECC has received a significant number of representations from the AEP and Drax since 2005. These representations concerned a wide range of issues relating to the generators' businesses and the energy market.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK energy demand that was met by energy from *(a)* fossil fuel sources in (i) each year from 1987 to 1989 and (ii) 2008 and *(b)* nuclear sources in each year since 1987. [278278]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The proportion of UK demand met by fossil fuel sources in the years 1987 to 1989 was 92.5 per cent., 91.5 per cent. and 90.6 per cent. respectively. Provisional estimates suggest that 91.9 per cent. of UK energy demand was met by fossil fuel sources in 2008.

The following tables details the proportion of UK energy demand met from nuclear sources in the years 1987 through to 2008.

	Percentage
1987	6.8
1988	7.8
1989	8.4
1990	7.6
1991	7.9
1992	8.5
1993	9.8
1994	9.7
1995	9.8
1996	9.6
1997	10.2
1998	10.2
1999	9.7
2000	8.4
2001	8.8
2002	8.7
2003	8.6
2004	7.8
2005	7.8
2006	7.4
2007	6.2
2008	5.5

Energy Industry: Job Creation

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage employers in the energy sector to create new jobs in the UK. [270831]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 24 April 2009]:* The UK has led the world in taking a strategic and long-term approach to the problem of climate change. Existing policies are already enabling £50 billion of low carbon investment over the three years to 2011, and helping to support 900,000 jobs. Budget 2009 builds on these foundations and provides over £1.4 billion of extra targeted support in the low carbon sector. Together with announcements made last autumn, these measures will enable an additional £10.4 billion of low carbon and energy investment over the next three years. This will help protect investment and jobs in the low carbon sector in the short term and provide the foundations for strong growth in the future.

Energy: Billing

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with Ofgem on the simplification and standardisation of energy bills for the purposes of assisting consumers. [278340]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ministers have met with Ofgem and discussed a range of issues in the energy supply markets. Following the results of its probe into energy markets, Ofgem recently consulted on proposals designed to help consumers to make well-informed choices. The proposals include an obligation on suppliers to provide clearer information, including simplified information on tariffs to make comparison easier. The consultation closed on 29 May.

Energy: Finance

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent from the public purse on the generation of energy from *(a)* oil, *(b)* gas, *(c)* coal, *(d)* nuclear sources and *(e)* renewable sources in each year since 1990. [278253]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its creation on 3 October 2008, the Department of Energy and Climate Change has not spent any money from the public purse on the actual generation of energy from oil and gas fired, coal fired, nuclear power and renewable energy sources.

Financial support for renewable generation comes mainly through the renewables obligation, which is ultimately paid for by electricity consumers. The Government also pay grants towards the installation costs of a variety of renewable generation, and development of new technologies.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority currently has two operating nuclear power stations, the costs of running which are covered by the income that they generate.

Energy: Meters

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will have discussions with smaller energy suppliers on their practice in introducing smart meters at minimal cost to consumers. [278160]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government published a consultation on smart metering for electricity and gas on 11 May 2009 (available on the open consultations section of the DECC website). We look forward to receiving contributions to this consultation and we will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to gather views throughout the consultation period.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward legislative proposals to restrict to a minimum the cost to consumers of the introduction of smart meters. [278161]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government published a consultation on smart metering for electricity and gas on 11 May 2009 (available on the open consultations section of the DECC website). The consultation document includes discussion of the programme of work that will be needed to prepare for the roll-out of smart meters. There will be a substantial programme to complete, including consideration of the most appropriate regulatory framework.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on energy prices of measures to implement commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. [277335]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC's analysis estimates that the benefits to the UK as a whole of measures to help avert climate change could outweigh the costs by more than 10 times. Where these measures lead to an international climate agreement consistent with delivering a 450 ppm stabilisation of GHG atmospheric concentrations, we estimate the total benefits at £241.9 billion. This compares with total costs of £20.6 billion. The Impact Assessment can be found at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/carbon_budgets/carbon_budgets.aspx

The Government are committed to ensuring that policies to avert climate change are cost-effective.

For household consumers, approximately 12 to 14 per cent. of current average electricity prices is attributable to measures to implement commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions (the Renewables Obligation, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme and the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target).

For household gas consumers, approximately 2 per cent. of the average gas price is attributable to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target.

However the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target supports energy efficiency measures for households and so will deliver over time an overall saving on both gas and electricity bills greater than its total cost to consumers.

For medium industrial electricity consumers, approximately 20 per cent. of current average electricity bills is attributable to measures to implement commitments to reduce carbon dioxide emissions (the Renewables Obligation, EU ETS and the Climate Change Levy).

On gas, approximately 7 per cent. of current average prices for a medium industrial gas consumer is attributable to the Climate Change Levy.

Actual proportions for individual industrial consumers will vary from these estimated averages according to the considerable ranges of prices paid and of consumption sizes. Impacts will generally be lower for those companies which have entered into Climate Change Agreements. The revenue raised by the Climate Change Levy is recycled back to business, primarily through a 0.3 percentage point reduction in employers' national insurance contributions.

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made in its *(a)* survey and *(b)* review of (i) the resilience of and (ii) resilience plans developed by the (A) electricity, (B) gas and (C) oil sector in respect of flooding. [277655]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Taking each sector in turn:

(A) Electricity:

The then Energy Minister initiated an in depth review into the resilience of electricity substations to flood risk shortly after the floods of summer 2007. This review was led by the Electricity Networks Association (ENA) and included representatives from DECC, all electricity network owners, the Environment Agency (EA)/SEPA, the Met Office and Ofgem. The Pitt review team also attended several meetings of the review steering group. As a result of this work we are now at a position where:

The electricity network companies and the environment agency have completed a structured exchange of information that has enabled the companies to identify all the sites at risk to fluvial or tidal flooding.

There have been improvements made in the provision of flood warning information between the EA and the electricity sector. In particular the network owners now receive a daily risk based flood warning bulletin from the EA which is sent by e-mail.

All the electricity distribution companies have submitted investment plans to Ofgem as part of their current five year price reviews which include proposals to improve the flood resilience of major electricity substations.

The Energy Networks Association (ENA) will shortly be issuing an "Engineering Technical Recommendation", essentially an agreed industry standard, setting out best practice for network owners in managing flood risk at major substations.

Company business continuity plans for flood risk have been significantly improved by the information that has emerged during the ENA led review.

Electricity companies have also undertaken certain strategic investments to improve their resilience to flood risk in the short term. For example the substations in Gloucester that were impacted by the flooding, at Walham and Castlemeads, now have permanent flood defence barriers and a number of companies have purchased relocatable flood defence systems. In addition companies have reviewed the design of large new substations at risk to flooding and have taken steps to raise them above the level of potential flood waters where appropriate.

(B) Gas and (C) Oil.

DECC has also completed a survey of both the gas and oil sectors to establish their awareness of flood risk and identify any significant risks to the continuity of supplies. Although inherently more resilient than the electricity networks, and with little evidence of supply problems due to flooding, a small number of residual risks were identified that could lead to local difficulties in the most severe flooding situations. The management of these risks is being progressed with the companies and their trade associations.

Fossil Fuel Levy: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the balance of the Scottish fossil fuel levy account was on 31 March 2009. [277347]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 2 June 2009]:* The balance of the Scottish fossil fuel levy account was £153.2 million on 31 March 2009.

Fuel Oil: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the volume of domestic fuel oil consumed by households in Lancashire between 1 November and 31 March in each of the last five years; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the implementation of the National Energy Efficiency Saving Plan on such volumes. [278577]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The domestic fuel oil consumption statistics for Lancashire are not available for the requested period of 1 November to 31 March as DECC only publish sub-national energy consumption statistics on a calendar year basis. The annual statistics are currently available for the years 2003 to 2006 and can be seen in the following table. It must be noted that the data are modelled and that there are methodological differences between 2003 and 2004 and the later years. The changes were recognised as improvements and as such the statistics gained National Statistics status in 2005. Details of all methodologies can be found at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/regional/other/page36195.html

	Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent of fuel oil consumed by the domestic sector in Lancashire
2003	48.4
2004	44.4
2005	35.7
2006	37.4

No specific assessment has been made of the impact our energy efficiency policies have had on fuel oil consumption in Lancashire.

Fuel Poverty: North-West

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what trends in energy prices he forecasts for the forthcoming winter; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of those trends on fuel poverty levels in *(a)* the north-west and *(b)* the UK. [278681]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC do not publish projections of energy prices. Ofgem have recently published their second quarterly report which provides greater transparency regarding the relationship between wholesale prices and retail energy prices.

This can be found at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Pages/MoreInformation.aspx?docid=98&refer=Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro

Fuels: Prices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his latest estimate is of the average monthly fuel bill for a *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedroom, *(c)* three bedroom and *(d)* four or more bedroom property. [277703]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not hold any data on electricity and gas bills on a monthly basis or by property size.

The Department's latest estimates for the average annual domestic energy bills relate to the year to December 2008 and are published in Quarterly Energy Prices, the latest edition of which was published in March 2009, available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html/statistics/publications/prices/index.html

For an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity and 18,000 kWh of gas per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), in 2008 the average annual electricity bill was £405 and the average gas bill was £570.

Housing: Insulation

Mr. Milburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many houses have been insulated in *(a)* each region of England and *(b)* Darlington under Government schemes in each of the last five years. [275749]

Joan Ruddock: The following tables detail the number of homes insulated in *(a)* each region of England and *(b)* Darlington under Warm Front in the last five years.

(a) insulated households in each region of England

Region	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East Midlands	[1]—	2,904	9,087	9,320	8,562
East of England	[1]—	2,809	8,980	10,161	10,825
Greater London	9,795	5,079	4,952	6,041	6,105
North East England	10,913	5,463	6,049	4,833	3,353
North West England	33,478	18,930	24,541	20,988	19,166

(a) insulated households in each region of England

Region	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
South East England	13,602	8,709	9,751	8,684	8,889
South West England	12,038	7,487	8,161	8,296	7,987
West Midlands	20,520	11,112	12,844	11,958	10,522
Yorkshire and Humber	[1]—	4,202	11,283	13,385	9,845

[1] Unavailable

(b) Insulated households in Darlington

	Number
2004-05	581
2005-06	221
2006-07	305
2007-08	204
2008-09	134

Note:

Households insulated may have received one or more measures, such as cavity wall and loft insulation. Additionally, figures for 2004-05 do not include the Eastern Region or Yorkshire and the Humber as these areas were managed by a different Scheme Manager at this time (Powergen) and the data retained are not sufficient to provide a consolidated response.

International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Co-operation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Co-operation (IPEEC) was launched; what resources the UK has committed in support of the IPEEC; where the IPEEC secretariat will be based; what plans he has to invite other prospective IPEEC partners to join; how the output of IPEEC will be disseminated; and what plans he has to report to Parliament on the work of the IPEEC. [278384]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Co-operation (IPEEC) was formally launched at the meeting of G8 Energy Ministers in Rome on 24 May 2009. IPEEC is intended as a high level forum to co-ordinate international action and facilitate the exchange of information in order to promote the development of effective policies and measures to promote energy efficiency globally.

The partnership will hold its first working level meetings later this year at which the detailed work programme and the indicative budget for the IPEEC will be determined. IPEEC's Terms of Reference provide for all resource contributions, whether in-kind or financial, to be made on a voluntary basis.

The Secretariat for the IPEEC will be hosted by the International Energy Agency and nationals of all the partner countries will be eligible to apply for posts within the Secretariat. The Secretariat will have an important role to play in disseminating the output from the IPEEC work programme through workshops, publications, electronic communication tools and input to wider international energy and climate change processes. We hope that IPEEC will quickly expand beyond its founding members (the G8, China, India, South Korea, Brazil, Mexico and the European Commission). At the G8 Energy Ministers meeting the partners issued an open invitation for all interested countries to join IPEEC. We will report on progress when we report on our international energy strategy as part of the DECC Annual Report.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* solar photovoltaic (PV) and *(b)* other projects have been completed under the low carbon buildings programme Phase 2; how many solar PV projects are awaiting funding approval; and if he will make a statement. [273651]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 8 May 2009]*: Under Phase 2 of the low carbon buildings programme the number of *(a)* solar photovoltaic (PV) and *(b)* other projects have been completed are shown in the following table. To date £27.3 million has been committed to solar photovoltaic projects and 155 projects are awaiting approval, which should bring the total commitment to £31.5 million. A further 150 solar photovoltaic projects will be held on a waiting list.

Technology type	*Committed payment to projects*	*Number of projects paid*
Solar photovoltaic	1,212	467
Solar thermal hot water	401	93
Wind turbines	171	41
Ground source heat pumps	213	56
Automated wood pellet stoves	0	0
Wood fuelled boiler systems	30	13
Total	2,027	670

Mines Rescue Service: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 72W, on the Mines Rescue Service: finance, what recent consideration the Coal Forum has given to the proposal for the Government to serve as guarantor of the financial bonds the European Commission requires from the Mines Rescue Service Limited for it to participate in the research programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel; and if he will make a statement. [277361]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 1 June 2009]*: Although the Coal Forum has in the past discussed various aspects of mines rescue provision and its financing, the issue of financial bonds in relation to European Commission research projects has not been specifically raised with it. I have, however, asked my officials to establish with Mines Rescue Services Ltd. the extent to which the bonding requirements in question continue to pose operational difficulties for the company and, if so, to advise me what steps might be taken to mitigate them.

Plutonium

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will provide funding for travel and accommodation for stakeholders to attend the meeting on civil plutonium policy being held at Manchester airport on 21 May 2009. [276937]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who was invited to his Department's meeting on plutonium management at the Manchester Airport Hotel on 21 May 2009; who *(a)* accepted and *(b)* declined those invitations; what reasons were given by those who declined; how much was spent on that meeting; whether funding was made available to those attending the meeting for expenses incurred in attending; how many officials from his Department attended; how much was spent on their travel and accommodation; who facilitated the meeting; and whether external consultants were used to organise and conduct the meeting. [277332]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Those invited to the meeting on 21 May were:

1. Allerdale borough council
2. Copeland borough council
3. Cumbria county council
4. Highland council
5. Shetland Highland council
6. SERA
7. Greenpeace
8. Core
9. Nuclear institute
10. Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee
11. Isle of Man Government
12. Irish Government
13. Nuclear Industry Association
14. Scottish Government
15. Welsh Assembly
16. NuLeAF
17. Corwm
18. Friends of the Earth
19. West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group
20. Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group
21. Dr. Rachel Western
22. Dr. David Lowry.

Of those who were invited, Greenpeace, Nuclear institute, Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee, Irish Government, Isle of Man Government, Nuclear Industry Association, Copeland borough council, Cumbria county council, Shetland Highland council, Scottish Government, NuLeAF, Corwm, West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group, Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group and Dr. Rachel Western accepted. Only the Welsh Assembly formally declined as they were unavailable.

The total cost of the meeting, including the meeting room hire and the facilitators, was about £6,200.

Expenses were not paid to those attending.

Two officials attended the meeting. Their travel and accommodation costs were about £700.

The meeting was facilitated by the Environment Council who helped organise and conduct the meeting.

Regional Electricity Companies

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received from *(a)* the Association of Electricity Producers and *(b)* Drax Power Limited on the effects of the implementation of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. [276536]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 20 May 2009]*: According to departmental records there have been no representations to the Secretary of State from either the Association of Electricity Producers or Drax Power Limited concerning the effects of implementing the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources of energy in each EU member state in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 1999. [278254]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The EU renewables directive has set targets to member states for the amount of energy from renewable sources. The following table shows information held by the Department for each of the EU member states, on a comparable basis for 1995 and 2005, as well as the normalised hydro basis, as calculated by Eurostat, for 2005.

The Department does not hold information on the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources in each of the EU member states—this can be found on the Eurostat website.

Percentage

	Share of renewable sources in final consumption of energy, 1995	*Share of renewable sources in final consumption of energy, 2005*	*Share of renewable sources in final consumption of energy, 2005, after normalisation of hydro*
Sweden	35.7	40.8	39.8
Latvia	30.2	33.5	34.9
Finland	25.3	28.5	28.5
Austria	20.0	23.0	23.3
Romania	9.3	19.2	17.8
Estonia	9.3	18.0	18.0
Portugal	22.8	17.0	20.5
Denmark	8.3	17.0	17.0
Lithuania	9.5	15.1	15.0
Slovenia	13.2	14.9	16.0
Bulgaria	2.6	10.6	9.4
France	11.4	9.5	10.3
Spain	8.2	7.6	8.7
Greece	7.9	7.5	6.9
Poland	6.0	7.2	7.2
Slovakia	3.8	6.9	6.7
Czech Republic	2.2	6.3	6.1
Germany	2.3	5.9	5.8
Italy	4.3	4.6	5.2
Hungary	3.5	4.3	4.3
Ireland	2.0	3.0	3.1
Cyprus	2.3	2.9	2.9
Netherlands	1.2	2.4	2.4

Percentage

	Share of renewable sources in final consumption of energy, 1995	*Share of renewable sources in final consumption of energy, 2005*	*Share of renewable sources in final consumption of energy, 2005, after normalisation of hydro*
Belgium	1.1	2.2	2.2
UK	1.0	1.3	1.3
Luxembourg	0.8	0.9	0.9
Malta	0.0	0.0	0.0

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much and what proportion of the UK electricity supply came from renewable sources in each year since 2006. [278277]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The proportion of UK electricity generation from renewable sources for 2006 and 2007 are given in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available on 25 June 2009.

	UK electricity generation (GWh)	*UK electricity generation from renewables (GWh)*	*Renewables share of generation (percentage)*
2006	397,855	18,116	4.6
2007	396,142	19,664	5.0

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2008, tables 5.6 and 7.4, as updated on 23 December 2008. Available at: *http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/dukes/page45537.html*

Renewable Energy: River Severn

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent from the public purse since 1980 on projects to provide renewable energy from the river Severn. [278073]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: –The Government's current feasibility study has cost approximately £3 million since 2008. A study by the Sustainable Development Commission in 2007 (which covered all UK tidal power) received £400,000 of public funding. A report by Sir Robert McAlpine Limited in 2002 received £50,000 funding, and approximately £2.8 million was spent on a major study in 1987.

Severn tidal power has also been addressed at other times over the period as part of the wider assessment of UK marine energy potential. However there would be a disproportionate cost involved in obtaining accurate figures for spending related to energy from the Severn.

Renewable Energy: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the draw-down and utilisation of the fund for the promotion of energy use from renewable sources. [277348]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 2 June 2009]:* None.

Solar Power: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the merits of increasing the level of the subsidy available to homeowners for the installation of solar panels at their properties. [276628]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: An additional £45 million was announced in the Budget on 22 April 2009 for the low carbon buildings programme. This funding provides additional support of £10 million to households applying under phase 1 of the scheme.

We are considering the case on whether there is merit to increase the grant levels for the installation of solar panels. A decision will be made shortly.

THORP

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons Nuclear Management Partners and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority decided to close the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (THORP) at Sellafield; what plans his Department has for the imported spent irradiated fuel awaiting reprocessing at THORP; and if he will make a statement. [277658]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: THORP has not been closed; it is currently operating, albeit on a batch basis where each batch has its own safety justification. Existing policy for THORP is the plant will continue to operate until existing contracts have been completed or the plant is no longer economic.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1399W, on trade unions, what office facilities his Department provides for the exclusive use of each recognised trade union; and what the notional annual value of such provision is. [271921]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Wind Power

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind turbines will be erected over the next three years; and what recent estimate he has made of the effect this will have on the level of UK carbon dioxide emissions in each subsequent year. [276627]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In line with Government targets for delivering 15 per cent. renewable energy by 2020, we do expect an increase in the deployment of renewable energy, including wind farms, over the next three years. The scale of the increase in wind turbines over this period will depend on how quickly the market brings forward projects, and developers are able to obtain planning consent or construct projects which already have consent.

As an indication of the potential increase in the amount of wind energy over the next three years, 181 onshore and offshore wind developments (7393.4 MWe) have already received consent and are awaiting construction. A further 194 onshore and offshore wind projects (7316.8 MWe) are currently in the planning system[1]. Those in the planning system may or may not be consented. The timing of construction of those wind farms that have been consented depends on the developers' plans. Planning applications for further projects for wind farms may also come forward in this timeframe.

The effect that new wind farms will have on UK annual carbon dioxide emissions will depend on the speed of the build rate. It is estimated that in 2007 wind power saved 501 tonnes of CO_2 per GWh of electricity supplied compared with emissions from all fuel sources, including nuclear and renewables[2].

Our Renewable Energy Strategy consultation last summer estimated that meeting the 15 per cent. renewable energy target could save about 20 Mt CO_2 a year in 2020 outside the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, and contribute around 50 to 55 Mt CO_2 a year to meeting our ETS cap.

[1] *Source:*

AEA Technology, May 2009

[2] *Source:*

Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2008

Wind Power: South Downs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criteria his Department employed in determining award of the contract for the construction of wind turbines in the South Downs National Park. [277793]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold information on the award of contracts for any proposed wind farms in the South Downs National Park.

Contracting for the construction of wind turbines is a commercial matter for the developer of the proposed project.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the wind turbines in the South Downs National Park near East Meon were *(a)* planned and *(b)* offered out to tender; and which companies tendered for the project. [277794]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am told that the Department does not hold this information. The contracting arrangements of wind farm projects are a commercial matter for the developer concerned.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with the management of Vesta plants in Southampton and the Isle of Wight on proposals for the building of wind turbines in the South Downs National Park. [277795]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been no discussions between my Department and the management of Vesta on the issue of wind turbines in South Downs National Park.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an estimate of likely levels of retention of the skilled workforce at the Vesta turbine plants in Southampton and on the Isle of Wight in the next five years. [278381]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold this information. It is a matter for the Vesta.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether users of the ContactPoint database will be able to gain access to the database via wireless connections. [276853]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Organisations, who implement a wireless network in accordance with the relevant HMG security policy, may allow users to access ContactPoint via that method. Technical security measures prevent access to ContactPoint from anything other than an approved network and it is not possible to gain access to ContactPoint from unsecured wireless broadband or public locations such as internet cafes and wireless "hotspots".

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many officials work in his Department's Young People Directorate; and how many officials in that Directorate work for the *(a)* Young People's Participation and Attainment, *(b)* Young People: Qualification Strategy and Reform Group *(c)* Apprenticeships division. [277989]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As of 31 May 2009, 327 officials work in the Department's Young People Directorate (YPD):

That figure includes staff working for the following Groups:

Young People's Participation and Attainment Group: 71

Young People: Qualification Strategy and Reform Group: 90

Apprenticeships Group: 15

These figures include 23 officials in the Joint Youth Justice Unit, which reports jointly to Young People Directorate in the Department for Children, Schools and Families, and Criminal Justice Group in the Ministry of Justice. The figure for Apprenticeships Group includes 13 officials working in the Joint Apprenticeship Unit, which reports to both DCSF and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

GCSE: Mathematics

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* 16 to 19 year olds, *(b)* 19 to 25 year olds and *(c)* over 25 year olds have been entered for a mathematics GCSE examination in each of the last 10 years. [275809]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of achievements by learners in LSC-funded further education provision of GCSE Mathematics in each academic year since 2003-04, the earliest year for which we have comparable information.

Achievements by learners in LSC-funded further education provision of GCSE Mathematics, 2003/04 to 2007/08 in England

Age	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Under 16	100	100	—	100	100
16-18	26,900	26,600	26,100	25,900	24,900
19-25	4,800	4,800	4,900	4,800	4,500
Over 25	8,700	8,800	7,800	7,100	6,200
Total	40,400	40,300	38,800	37,900	35,700

Notes:

1. Age is based on age as at 31 August (academic age).
2. This information does not include learners studying GCSE Mathematics in Schools, higher education institutions or privately funded learners.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
4. '—' indicates less than 50.
5. Figures include achievements at any grade.

Source:

FE ILF

Awarding body data on GCSE examination entries is analysed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families as part of the Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables publication. However, this work only covers young people at the end of key stage 4. Therefore, we do not have information readily available on all learners being entered for GCSE Mathematics examinations.

Due to the increased number of pupils taking and successfully passing a Maths GCSE at school, we would expect the volume of learners studying this qualification at a further education college to fall. In 1997, there were 534.7 thousand 15-year-olds (academic age) attempting GCSE Mathematics and 250.3 thousand achieving a C grade or higher (around 50 per cent. of those attempting the subject). In 2004, 606.0 thousand pupils attempted GCSE Mathematics at the end of key stage 4 with 318.9 thousand achieving a grade A*-C (around 53 per cent. of those attempting the subject). In 2008, 609.7 thousand pupils attempted GCSE Mathematics at the end of key stage 4, with 361.1 thousand achieving a grade A*-C (59 per cent. of those attempting the subject).

A GCSE may not necessarily be the most appropriate learning outcome for many learners and colleges have been encouraged to advise learners to study the most relevant qualification to them. Many learners who may previously have undertaken a GCSE in Mathematics now have their numeracy needs picked up through embedded learning in other courses.

Over the past few years the Government have prioritised investment in adult skills towards those courses that best provide individuals with the skills to enter into sustained employment and progress into further learning. In 2007/08 464,000 learners achieved a Numeracy Skills for Life qualification.

Pre-school education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many state-funded nursery places there are in each local authority area; how many of these are occupied; and if he will make a statement. [277981]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the number of state-funded nursery places in each local authority area is not collected centrally.

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four year olds. This is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.

The latest information on the number of free early education places filled by three and four year olds can be found in Table 5 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England, January 2008" which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/index.shtml

Racial Harassment: Barnsley

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were *(a)* excluded from school and *(b)* otherwise disciplined in Barnsley for a racist attack on a teacher in the academic year (a) 2006-07, (b) 2007-08 and (c) 2008-09. [276418]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is not collected in the form requested.

Information on the reason for exclusion from school is broken down into a number of categories. While there are categories for 'racist abuse' and 'physical assault against an adult' the categories are not broken down to specifically cover racist attacks on teachers.

Exclusions statistics for 2006/07, including breakdown by reason for exclusion, were published in SFR 14/2008 'Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07' which is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

Exclusions statistics for 2007/08 are scheduled to be published in the summer; information for 2008/09 is expected to be published in summer 2010.

Statistics are not collected by the Department on the numbers of pupils disciplined for particular kinds of behaviour.

Truancy: Greater Manchester

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parents have been fined as a result of their children not attending school in each borough in Greater Manchester in each of the last five years. [277529]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Ministry of Justice collects data for England and Wales on prosecutions brought against parents under the Education Act 1996 for the offence under s444(1) of failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school; and for prosecutions under s444(1A), the aggravated offence of knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly. It is possible, because of the way courts record data that some data is collected under the more general heading of various offences under the Education Act 1996.

The information on the number of parents sentenced and given fines in the Greater Manchester area is detailed in the table. The data for 2008 will be published this autumn. The Ministry of Justice only collects information on sentencing based on police force regions.

The Department also collects and publishes data on penalty notices (fines) issued by local authorities in England to parents for not securing their child's regular attendance at school. The figures for the last four years for each local authority in the Greater Manchester region are detailed in the following table.

Adults sentenced for child truanting offences[1] in the Greater Manchester police force area, 2005-07

	Detail	*Fined*
2003	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	155
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	3
2004	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	154
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	24
2005	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	176
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	58
2006	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	492
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	51
2007	Parent failing to secure their child's regular attendance at school	481
	Parent knowing that their child is failing to attend school regularly without reasonable justification to cause him or her to attend school	105

[1] These data are extracted on the principal offence basis.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data sy[illegible] Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

QMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Penalty notices issued by local authorities to parents for their children's non school attendance in the Greater Manchester area

Number of PNs for unauthorised absence over:	*Bolton*	*Bury*	*Manchester*	*Oldham*	*Rochdale*	*Salford*	*Stockport*	*Tameside*	*Trafford*	*Wigan*
2004/05	4	53	271	31	0	2	40	6	0	37
2005/06	295	61	118	88	27	416	320	90	8	113
2006/07	228	61	195	80	97	508	329	0	9	198
2007/08	198	106	278	124	211	242	154	30	34	202

Source:

Department for Children, Schools and Families data March 2009

Young Offender Institutions: Education

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding each young offender institution (YOI) received from the Learning and Skills Council for the provision of education and training in the last 12 months; and how many hours per week education and training were provided on average in each YOI. [277298]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Education in public sector young offender institutions (YOIs) in England is currently provided by contractors appointed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The LSC learning providers are contracted to deliver a minimum of 15 hours per learner per week. The delivery of the remaining hours to meet the Youth Justice Board requirement of 25 hours per learner per week is the responsibility of the Prison Service. Therefore the figures below do not represent the total spend on education and training or the total average number hours of education and training received by juvenile young people in YOIs because they do not include provision funded and delivered by the Prison Service delivered as part of the wider regimes.

The following table shows the Learning and Skills Council's total spend in each YOI in the academic year 2007/08 (the most recent figures available) and the average number of hours per learner per week engaged in LSC funded learning and skills which this funding represented.

Some YOIs are 'split-site' and contain both 'juveniles' (young people mostly aged 15-17, and some 18 year olds near the end of their sentence), and 'young adults' aged 18-20, and the figures below cover juveniles only. The data for 'young adults' are collected differently and cannot be readily extracted in the same way.

1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008

Establishment	*Spend (£)*	*Average hours per learner per week for those engaged in learning*
Castington (split site)[1]	1,244,101.00	18.04
Lancaster Farms	982,054.00	18.05
Hindley	1,764,889.00	16.94
Eastwood Park	255.015.00	16.15
Brinsford (split site)[1]	1,256,545.00	14.03
Cookham Wood	259,989.00	[2]—
Downview	252,109.00	19.88
Feltham (split site)[1]	1,907,053.00	22.71
Foston Hall	249,403.00	19.29
Huntercombe	2,256,948.00	14.74
New Hall	383,455.00	22.07

1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008

Establishment	*Spend (£)*	*Average hours per learner per week for those engaged in learning*
Stoke Heath (split site)[1]	1,729,089.00	11.38
Warren Hill	1,653,539.00	12.46
Werrington	1,015,765.00	15.36
Wetherby	2,045,829.00	17.94
Total	17,255,789.00	[3]17.07

[1] The funding against the split sites only applies to the 15-17 year olds, and does not include the 18-21 (for which the figures cannot be extracted)

[2] Between January 2008 and April 2008 there were no young people in Cookham Wood therefore it is not possible to calculate an average that can reasonably be compared to other establishments.

[3] This average excludes Cookham Wood

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275335]

Jonathan Shaw: During the period April 2008 to March 2009, approximately 94 per cent. of office supplies purchased by DWP were recycled products.

Incapacity Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants in *(a)* each region, *(b)* each Jobcentre Plus district and *(c)* the UK (i) had and (ii) were receiving treatment for (A) drug addiction problems and (B) alcohol addiction problems in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [269533]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the number of people claiming incapacity benefit and receiving treatment for drug addiction problems and alcohol addiction problems is not available in the form requested.

We estimate that around 350,000 of the around 400,000 heroin and crack cocaine users in Britain are in receipt of working-age benefits. Research has recently been commissioned to assess the prevalence of alcohol misuse in the benefit system.

HEALTH

Carers: Expenditure

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of how much of the £150 million allocated to primary care trusts for the purposes of carers' breaks and respite care has been spent on such assistance for carers. [278302]

Phil Hope: Primary care trust (PCT) expenditure on carers' breaks and respite care is not collected centrally. The actual level of spend in each year is for PCTs to decide locally in the light of their local circumstances, and priorities as set out in the NHS Operating Framework and Vital Signs.

Community Care: Elderly

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the forthcoming social care Green Paper will contain proposals to assist older people to live independently at home through housing adaptations. [278155]

Phil Hope: The Government recognise the importance of a diverse range of housing support being available and that this helps people live independently within their own homes.

The forthcoming "care and support" Green Paper will lay out a series of options around reforming the care and support system, to ensure that care is high quality and cost-effective; that people have choice and control over the care they receive and that the funding system is fair, sustainable, and affordable for individuals and the state. The detail of the Green Paper will be revealed when it is published later this month.

Dental Services: Per Capita Costs

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust has spent per capita of the population it serves on the provision of NHS dental services in each of the last five years. [278422]

Ann Keen: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care published the following report on 26 March 2008: "NHS Expenditure for General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services: England 1997/98—2005/06". This report has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalexpend1997to2006

The report includes information on primary dental care expenditure per population by primary care trust (PCT) for 1997-98 to 2005-06 in tables A2 and B2 of annex 3. table A2 relates to 'gross' expenditure and table B2 relates to 'net' expenditure. 'Gross' expenditure refers to the full cost of the payments recorded; 'net' expenditure reflects the cost of these payments to the NHS after the deduction of income from NHS dental charges paid by patients.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. Further notes to aid interpretation of the information are shown in the 'Contents and Notes' page of annex 3.

Data on primary dental care expenditure in 2006-07 and 2007-08 can be extracted from the notes of PCT accounts (accounts data for 2008-09 are not yet available) and per capita expenditure calculated. The data reflect the new contract framework for primary dental care services introduced from 1 April 2006, and incorporate additional service costs such as the employers' superannuation contributions payable on behalf of primary care dentists. They also reflect the revised PCT structures introduced from 1 October 2006. The new data series is therefore not fully comparable with the pre-2006 data provided in the NHS Information Centre report. Information on the gross and net expenditure per capita for each primary care trust in England is set out in a table which has also been placed in the Library.

As patients may attend dentists at any locality of their choice, the level of service provision in a PCT may not be directly related to the size of its resident population.

Depressive Illnesses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which organisations he has discussed the draft National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines for psychotherapy treatments of depression. [278573]

Ann Keen: We have had no discussions with any organisation regarding the draft National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline on the treatment and management of depression in adults.

The Department is a stakeholder in the development of this guideline and has responded to the recent consultation on the draft guidance.

Epilepsy

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of patients with suspected epilepsy who died between first presentation and first appointment with a specialist in the latest period for which figures are available. [277765]

Ann Keen: We have made no estimate of the number of patients with suspected epilepsy who died between first presentation and first appointment with a specialist.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* in total and *(b)* under the age of 25 incurred serious injuries where epilepsy was a contributing factor in each of the last five years. [278129]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people seriously injured, where epilepsy was a contributing factor, is not collected centrally.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been provided to organisations in Leicester for *(a)* research into and *(b)* treatment of epilepsy in each of the last five years. [278130]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. The Department does not collect the data that would be needed to identify what part of the research and development funding allocated to organisations in Leicester has been spent in support of research into epilepsy.

Funding for the treatment of epilepsy is part of the general funding allocation given to primary care trusts (PCTs) and therefore cannot be identified. This information can be acquired from PCTs directly.

Health Services: Conditions of Employment

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation with *(a)* all staff and *(b)* trade unions has taken place in primary care trusts on the transfer of community services; and if he will make a statement. [278159]

Phil Hope: There were two meetings nationally with the trades union representatives of national health service staff about the "Transforming Community Services: Enabling new patterns of provision" guidance, which was published in January 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library. These meetings were held on 18 November and 8 December 2008, and comments and contributions from those present influenced significantly the content of the final guidance. The union representatives were a sub-group of members of the Social Partnership Forum, and they discussed the potential implications for NHS staff. NHS clinical staff and trade union representatives are also members of the board for the Transforming Community Services programme.

The six transformational practice guides (written principally for clinical team leaders), which are due to be published in June 2009, have also been co-produced with NHS staff.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 107-08W, on hospital wards, how much funding had been allocated to each project in each strategic health authority on the latest date for which figures are available. [278495]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 107-08W.

Copies of the strategic health authority (SHA) plans regarding schemes for the Privacy and Dignity Expenditure have already been placed in the Library. Information is not available to confirm the funding for each individual project. However each SHA will be required to submit a report in early July confirming the delivery of their plans. These will also be made available in the Library once received.

Hospitals: Bristol

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the project to build a new hospital on the Southmead Hospital site; how much will be paid to the preferred contractor in advance of the commencement of construction work; and if he will make a statement. [278269]

Ann Keen: The capital value of the new private finance initiative (PFI) hospital development is £430 million. The appointment of preferred bidder business case on the scheme, currently being considered by the Department, includes a proposal for a payment from the trust to the contractor of £7.6 million in advance of financial close. This is for enabling works to have the development site ready for construction of the new hospital.

Additional development works are already under way on the trust site under a separate public capital funded contract.

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he plans to issue to local authorities on carrying out their proposed duties under Clause 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill. [278168]

Ann Keen: Subject to parliamentary approval, the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will issue statutory guidance for local authorities to clarify their roles and responsibilities under the duty to promote democracy, including the requirements on them in respect of various national health service bodies. We will work with our colleagues in DCLG in the development of the guidance which will be the subject of consultation before publication.

Lung Cancer

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many lung cancer patients in each *(a)* cancer network and *(b)* strategic health authority area received (i) surgical resection, (ii) chemotherapy, (iii) radiotherapy and (iv) any active anti-cancer treatment in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [277827]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Lyme Disease

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent advice on Lyme disease his Department has received from the National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections; and at what date such advice was received; [278708]

(2) what recent advice on Lyme disease his Department has received from the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens; and at what date such advice was received. [278709]

Ann Keen: The National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections (NEPNEI) concluded, in November 2004, that Lyme disease was the most significant public health vector-borne disease in the United Kingdom. The Panel considered incidence and detection of disease in the UK and modes of transmission.

In 2006, the Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, asked Professor Brian Duerden, the Inspector of Microbiology and an assessor member of both NEPNEI and the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP), to conduct an investigation into the use of unvalidated tests in the diagnosis of Lyme disease. His report "The use of unorthodox and unvalidated laboratory tests in the diagnosis of Lyme borreliosis and in relation to medically unexplained symptoms", has been placed in the Library.

Since then, the Department has received regular advice on Lyme disease from Professor Duerden, the latest of which was in February 2009, confirming that the current guidance for clinicians on the detection, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease as published by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is entirely appropriate for the management of Lyme disease in the UK. Advice was also received confirming that only validated tests that conform to the internationally agreed criteria for the diagnosis of Borrelia burgdorferi, the causative agent for Lyme disease, should be used for the diagnosis of Lyme disease. This advice is consistent with that on the HPA's website.

The HPA is also represented on both NEPNEI and ACDP.

Memory Clinics

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many memory clinics for dementia sufferers have been established *(a)* in England and *(b)* in Gloucestershire in each of the last five years. [278172]

Phil Hope: The information requested on the number of memory clinics for dementia sufferers established nationally and in Gloucestershire in each of the last five years is not collected centrally. It is for primary care trusts to decide on the number and location of memory clinics depending on local circumstances.

Mental Health Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to facilitate the provision by primary care trusts of single sex wards in psychiatric units; and if he will make a statement. [277852]

Phil Hope: Men and women should not share sleeping accommodation, bedrooms or bed bays, or sanitary provision on mental health units. Effective gender separation can be provided in single sex wards or on mixed sex wards. Currently, 70 per cent. of sleeping accommodation in the mental health estate is in single rooms.

In January 2009, the Department announced a package of measures designed to help hospitals all but eliminate mixed-sex accommodation, the "Same-sex accommodation: your privacy, our responsibility" campaign. This includes:

> a £100 million Privacy and Dignity Fund to support improvements and adjustments to hospital accommodation;
>
> providing good practice information and guidance to trusts;
>
> sending an improvement team to hospitals that need extra support; and
>
> introducing rigorous and transparent performance measures.
>
> Primary care trusts are required to work with local providers, including mental health trusts, to deliver substantial and meaningful reductions in the number of service users that report sharing sleeping or sanitary accommodation with members of the opposite sex and to increase the provision of women-only day space in mental health units.

Guidance on achieving effective gender separation on mental health units has been published in the Institute for Innovation and Improvements guide on mixed sex accommodation and in the mental health capital project commissioning guide "Laying the Foundations".

Mental Health Services: Hospital Beds

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dedicated in-patient beds for mental health patients there are in each NHS primary care trust area in England. [278423]

Phil Hope: We do not collect the exact data requested centrally. However, the following table shows mental health in-patient beds in each provider trust, a number of which will be primary care trusts.

Average daily number of beds by ward classification mental illness, NHS organisations in England, 2007-08

	Org ID	*Name*	*Total*
2007-08		England	26,406
2007-08	RR7	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	76
2007-08	RX4	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	993
2007-08	RTF	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	74
2007-08	RX3	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	809
2007-08	RTV	5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	347
2007-08	RXV	Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust	619
2007-08	RXA	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust	329
2007-08	RW5	Lancashire Care NHS Trust	810
2007-08	TAE	Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust	292
2007-08	RW4	Mersey Care NHS Trust	444
2007-08	RNN	North Cumbria Mental Health and Learning Disabilities NHS Trust	190
2007-08	RT2	Pennine Care NHS Trust	510
2007-08	5JE	Barnsley PCT	78
2007-08	TAD	Bradford District Care Trust	279
2007-08	RXE	Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust	332
2007-08	RV9	Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	203
2007-08	RGD	Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	345
2007-08	TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	34
2007-08	5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	55
2007-08	5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	303
2007-08	TAH	Sheffield Care Trust	273
2007-08	RXG	South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust	417
2007-08	RXM	Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	346
2007-08	RT5	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	434
2007-08	RP7	Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust	221
2007-08	RP1	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust	238
2007-08	RHA	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	1,079
2007-08	RXT	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	797
2007-08	RYG	Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	345
2007-08	5PE	Dudley PCT	127
2007-08	5CN	Herefordshire PCT	76
2007-08	RLY	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	245
2007-08	TAJ	Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust	150
2007-08	RRE	South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	422
2007-08	5M3	Walsall Teaching PCT	118
2007-08	5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	76
2007-08	RWQ	Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	202
2007-08	RV7	Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust	257
2007-08	RT1	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	319
2007-08	RWR	Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	444
2007-08	RMY	Norfolk and Waveney Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	453
2007-08	RRD	North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	387
2007-08	RWN	South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	311
2007-08	RT6	Suffolk Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	202
2007-08	RRP	Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	619
2007-08	TAF	Camden and Islington Mental Health And Social Care Trust	377
2007-08	RV3	Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	734
2007-08	RWK	East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	655
2007-08	RAT	North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	416
2007-08	RPG	Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	404
2007-08	RV5	South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust	1,084
2007-08	RQY	South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	706
2007-08	RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	10
2007-08	RKL	West London Mental Health NHS Trust	596
2007-08	RXY	Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust	602
2007-08	RXX	Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust	432
2007-08	RX2	Sussex Partnership NHS Trust	701
2007-08	RWX	Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	245
2007-08	RW1	Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust	577
2007-08	5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	70
2007-08	5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	64
2007-08	RNU	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	430

Average daily number of beds by ward classification mental illness, NHS organisations in England, 2007-08

	Org ID	Name	Total
2007-08	5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	159
2007-08	RVN	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	729
2007-08	RJ8	Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust	162
2007-08	RWV	Devon Partnership NHS Trust	341
2007-08	5QQ	Devon PCT	15
2007-08	RDY	Dorset Healthcare NHS Trust	290
2007-08	5QM	Dorset PCT	123
2007-08	RTQ	Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust	184
2007-08	RVJ	North Bristol NHS Trust	29
2007-08	5F1	Plymouth Teaching PCT	117
2007-08	RH5	Somerset Partnership NHS and Social Care Trust	205

Source:
The Department of Health form KH03

Myasthenia Gravis

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for treatment for patients diagnosed with myasthenia gravis was in the latest period for which figures are available. [278666]

Ann Keen: Data on the average waiting time for treatment for those diagnosed with myasthenia gravis are not collected centrally.

Organs

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Human Tissue Authority to publish its report on human tissue legislation and the regulation of tissue-based research. [278006]

Ann Keen: We understand from the Human Tissue Authority that the findings will be published later in the year.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts include on surgery consent forms an option for patients to consent to the storage and use of their tissue for research purposes. [278007]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected by the Department.

TREASURY

Equitable Life Assurance Society: Compensation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what budget has been allocated to Sir John Chadwick's office for its review of the payment of compensation to Equitable Life policy-holders; [276896]

(2) how many staff have been employed for the purposes of Sir John Chadwick's review of the payment of compensation to Equitable Life policy-holders; [276897]

(3) what the salary is of each member of staff employed for the purposes of Sir John Chadwick's review of the payment of compensation to Equitable Life policy-holders; [276898]

(4) which agency was used to recruit staff for the purposes of Sir John Chadwick's review of the payment of compensation to Equitable Life policy-holders. [276899]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to giving Sir John Chadwick all the support he needs. He is currently assisted by a core team of three staff in his office: counsel, private secretary and administrative support, and his team will be joined shortly by professional actuarial advisers. The Treasury keeps Sir John's resource requirements under review and will fund any additional staff for his office he believes necessary to meet his terms of reference in a timely way.

No agency was used. Sir John is responsible for recruiting his staff and services, using a competitive procurement process to buy the services. The salaries of each member of the team constitute personal data and release of this data would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 as it would disclose personal financial information without public interest justification.

Gold and Foreign Exchange Reserves

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes in the UK's holding of currency reserves there have been in each year since 1997. [278106]

Ian Pearson: It is not possible to provide a consistent series for the official reserves before 1999, given changes in accounting methodology. Back data for the UK's official reserves prior to 1999 can be found on the ONS publication, "Economic Trends Annual Supplement No. 32 2006 edition."

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/ETSupp2006.pdf

Detailed historical data for the official reserves on a consistent basis from July 1999 can be found on the Bank of England website:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/reserves/index.htm

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what gold reserves the Government hold. [278119]

Ian Pearson: This information can be found at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/reserves/Tempoutput.pdf

Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many responses his Department received to its consultation on regulation of the sale and rent back market; and by what date he expects to determine steps to be taken as a result of that consultation; [277767]

(2) what steps he plans to take to increase the level of consumer protection in the sale and rent back market; [277768]

(3) when he expects a new framework for the regulation of the sale and rent back market to be implemented; and if he will make a statement; [277769]

(4) if he will extend the remit of the Financial Services Authority to regulate sale and rent back agreements. [277815]

Ian Pearson: On 2 June 2009, the Government laid before Parliament secondary legislation to extend the scope of Financial Services Authority (FSA) regulation to include sale and rent back agreements, and published, "Regulating the sale and rent back market: summary of responses to consultation", available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consult_sale_rent.htm

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 March 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs E. Flint. [273762]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the right hon. Member.

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the tax department of HM Revenue and Customs uses auditable systems to record the date on which correspondence is received. [277781]

Mr. Timms: Correspondence received by HM Revenue and Customs on paper is manually stamped with the date the letter was received and the name of the receiving office. For correspondence which is scanned the date of receipt is recorded electronically. E-mails and faxes have the date of receipt automatically recorded.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rights of entry debt collectors acting on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs have. [277772]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have no right of forced entry for debt recovery work without a court order. HMRC's current small scale six month pilot to test the use of private debt collection agencies does not involve face to face contact or visits to home or business premises.

Taxation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse *(a)* in total and *(b)* per £1,000 of revenue collected was of the administration of (i) value added tax, (ii) income tax and (iii) tax revenue raised by local authorities. [278068]

Mr. Timms: The figures are in the following table:

	(a) Total cost of administration 2007-08 (£000)	*(b) Cost per thousand of revenue collected 2007-08 (£)*
(i) Value Added Tax	451,055	5.55
(ii) Income Tax	1,754,362	11.58
(iii) English local authority revenues[1]		
Council tax	484,000	20.20
National non domestic rates	99,000	5.40

[1] Information relates to England only, and can be found in the Local Government Financial Statistics volume 19, at:
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/financialstatistics192009

Revenue raised by local authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the respective devolved administrations.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to encourage the development of more allotments; what guidance she has provided to local authorities on this issue; and what research her Department has undertaken into the potential contribution of allotments to local food chains and sustainable community agriculture. [278464]

John Healey: At a meeting between my noble Friend Baroness Andrews and allotment policy stakeholders on 20 February 2009, it was agreed that the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens should be commissioned to update the Local Government Association (LGA) publication "Growing in the Community" and that this should be made available online, to ensure that it reaches a wider audience. "Growing in the Community" is a good practice guide for local authority allotment officers, which assists them in their statutory duty to provide allotments. A free copy was sent to all local authorities following its revision in March 2008 and it is available on request from the LGA.

In respect of research into the potential contribution of allotments, my officials have started discussions with DEFRA about jointly commissioning research to identify and collect evidence on how communities can be engaged and empowered to realise the benefits of urban green spaces (including allotments), which align with key Government priorities.

Departmental Films

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many films her Department has produced in *(a)* video, *(b)* DVD and *(c)* digital formats in the last 12 months; and what the (i) title and (ii) purpose was of each film. [277035]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not maintain a central record of films produced. A range of short films produced in digital format during the period specified have been published on the Department's YouTube channel at:

www.youtube.com/user/CommunitiesUK

In addition, the Department's Communication Directorate has produced one internal film, entitled "Making it Happen", in a digital format for the purpose of introducing departmental values to staff.

Departmental Legal Costs

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legal costs were incurred in the Court of Appeal by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority and *(c)* the Board of Medical Referees in defending the appeals brought by Martin Marrion, Neil Burke and Andrew Scott, case number C1/2008/1332. [277999]

Mr. Khan: The legal costs incurred by the Department amounted to £43,930. These included the cost of representing the Board of Medical Referees. Any costs incurred by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority are a matter for the authority.

The Department will also pay the appellants' reasonable costs in the Court of Appeal as are agreed or, if not, following a detailed assessment.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in each of the last five years. [277162]

Mr. Khan: The Department buys advertising space via the central contracts operated by the Central Office of Information. They have confirmed that the Department spent £405,165 in total on regional press advertising through the COI last year, £1,184,904 in total in 2007-08 and £646,826 in total in 2006-07.

COI do not hold records of any such spend by CLG's predecessor Departments in the period requested.

Departmental Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many editions of her Department's We Can publication have been produced; to whom her Department distributes that publication; and how many copies have been distributed in each of the last four quarters; [277353]

(2) how many staff were employed to produce her Department's We Can publication; what the job title is of each such member of staff; and how much has been spent on staff salaries for those staff in each of the last three years; [277354]

(3) how many copies of each edition of her Department's We Can publication have been printed; and what the cost of *(a)* publishing and *(b)* printing the publication has been in each of the last three years; [277356]

(4) what budget has been allocated to her Department's Local Democracy and Participation Directorate for production of the We Can document in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [277357]

Mr. Khan: In the last four quarters we have produced three editions of WeCan! The publication is distributed to 1,350 subscribers comprising local authorities (county, district and parish levels), third sector and voluntary organisations, Government Departments, housing, police and health organisations and tenant associations, think tanks, charities, minority representative groups, university departments, NHS trusts and community groups. In each quarter 1,350 print copies were distributed to subscribers with the remainder provided for internal staff, partner organisations and for distribution at conferences and events.

There is no dedicated member of staff working on the WeCan! publication, it is part of one person's wider job remit.

In 2006-07 three editions were produced and 2,000 copies were printed per edition. In 2007-08 two editions were produced and 3,000 copies were printed for each edition and in 2008-09 three editions were produced and 3,000 copies were printed for each edition. The total publishing and printing costs for these were £21,000 in 2006-07, £17,000 in 2007-08 and £38,000 in 2008-09.

The funding for meeting these costs was allocated to the local democracy and participation directorate for the production of the WeCan! publication in each of the last three years.

Departmental Security

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many breaches of security have been reported at *(a)* the Fire Service College, *(b)* Ordnance Survey, *(c)* the Planning Inspectorate and *(d)* the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in the last five years; and what procedures each agency follows when a breach of security involves the disclosure of personal data. [276957]

Mr. Khan: In the last five years there have been eight breaches of security. These are:

	Security breaches
Fire Service College	6
Ordnance Survey	2
Planning Inspectorate	0
QE2 conference centre	0

The Department and its agencies report all significant personal data security breaches to the Cabinet Office and the Information Commissioner's Office. Information on personal data security breaches is published on an annual basis in the Department's annual resources accounts as was announced in the data handling review published on 25 June 2008.

Additionally, all significant control weaknesses including other significant security breaches are included in the statement of internal control which is published within the annual resource accounts.

Departmental Training

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the title is of each course run by the National School of Government that members of her Department have attended in the last 18 months. [277131]

Mr. Khan: The information has been deposited in the Library of the House.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what activities have been undertaken by her Department's Euro Minister in that capacity. [277175]

Mr. Khan: Euro Ministers are responsible for euro preparations in their department and attend Euro Ministers Steering Group meetings. Meetings are held only when necessary to discuss practical preparations to ensure a smooth changeover.

Eco-Towns: Publicity

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 442-43W, on eco-towns: publicity, what the cost to the public purse was of work undertaken by each of the four marketing agencies; and what work each such agency undertook in relation to eco-towns for her Department. [276918]

Mr. Khan: The cost and work of the four agencies referred to by the hon. Member is as follows:

Company	*Work commissioned*	*Cost (£)*
Redhouse Lane	Design work	49,996
Skyline Whitespace	Exhibitions	7,870
Transmedia	Website transcription	200
Louise Burston	Photography	1,006

Fires

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic fires involving *(a)* pushchairs and *(b)* car seats suitable for infants from birth to six months old have been reported in each year since 1980. [277785]

Mr. Khan: The item first ignited is recorded in the statistical reporting of fire incidents. Pushchairs and infant car seats would both be recorded in the category 'other'. Consequently statistics on the incidence of such fires cannot be derived.

HomeBuy Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department owns the *(a)* trademark, *(b)* copyright and *(c)* patent for the HomeBuy brand. [278347]

John Healey: The Department commissioned the design of the current HomeBuy brand logo mark through the Central Office of Information, who assigned the advertising agency Chick Smith Trott under standard COI terms and conditions. Under these terms the intellectual property and copyright in the design transfers to the Crown.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes classified as energy-efficient have been built in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in the last five years. [278398]

John Healey: All new homes built in England in the last five years have been required to meet the energy efficiency standards set out in part L of the Building Regulations. Part L standard for new homes was raised by 25 per cent. in 2002 and by a further 20 per cent. in 2006. This requirement will progressively increase leading up to the target for all new homes to be zero carbon from 2016.

Housing: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent from the public purse on additional housing stock in each year since 1980. [277452]

John Healey: Information on public expenditure on housing and community amenities, including on housing development, is available in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analysis 2008 (PESA)

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa08.htm

published by HM Treasury. Spending by my Department on housing in England is also set out in the Department's published annual reports. Further analysis to disaggregate the element to support the construction of new housing stock, could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Within Communities and Local Government, the Affordable Housing programme is the primary route for funding the construction of new affordable housing in England; this is now delivered by the Homes and Communities Agency. Figures for allocations made through the Affordable Housing programme specifically for new affordable housing provision, are only readily available from 1999-2000 and are shown in the table: figures further back than that could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Total (£ million)
1999-2000	417
2000-01	493
2001-02	652
2002-03	800
2003-04	1,387
2004-05	1,639
2005-06	1,316
2006-07	2,092
2007-08	2,068
2008-09	2,587

Housing: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities provide home improvement grants and loans for flood resistance and resilience products. [277403]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally. The Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 gives local authorities wide powers to provide assistance for repairs, improvements, adaptations and to demolish and re-construct homes. Local authorities must have policies in place setting out how they will use these powers and they must make summaries of their policy available. If they wish to use the funding attached to this for flood resilience measures they can do so without specific instruction.

DEFRA has provided funding for LAs to assist home owners to protect their homes from flooding through the property level flood protection grant scheme.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new tenancies were initiated under the Rent to Homebuy scheme in 2008-09; and how many have been initiated in 2009-10 to date. [277453]

John Healey: Data on the number of new tenancies initiated under the Rent to HomeBuy scheme are not held centrally.

Under Rent to HomeBuy prospective purchasers rent a home for up to five years with the opportunity to buy on shared ownership terms during or at the end of this period.

When the tenant subsequently buys an initial share in due course, this information will be recorded on CORE (continuous recording) sales returns from registered social landlords to the Tenant Services Authority.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Homes and Communities Agency and its predecessor bodies and *(c)* the Tenant Services Authority has provided in respect of the Rent to Homebuy scheme since its inception. [278281]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) gave to him on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 244W, 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1357W, and 21 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1540W and 1546W respectively.

The Tenants Services Authority has not provided any funding to the Rent to HomeBuy scheme. All investment in this scheme by Communities and Local Government has been directed through the Homes and Communities Agency.

Housing: Regeneration

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1357-58W, on housing: regeneration, what the *(a)* date and *(b)* venue of each event was; how many participants there were at each; and what costs were incurred in each budgetary category in respect of each event. [277343]

John Healey: The date, venue and number of attendees for each event are set out in the table.

	Region	*Location*	*Attendees*
3 September	National—for corporate/professional bodies	British Library, London	83
11 September	South West	Thistle Hotel, Exeter	134
19 September	Yorkshire and Humber	Royal Armouries, Leeds	162
26 September	North West	Kings Waterfront, Liverpool	162
1 October	South East	Mandolay Hotel, Guildford	124
10 October	London	British Library, London	195
15 October	East of England	Homerton College, Cambridge	91
22 October	West Midlands	ICC, Birmingham	228
30 October	North East	Baltic Mill, Gateshead	132
5 November	East Midlands	Pera, Melton Mowbray	168

In addition, there were a further 54 attendees who came to events without having advised their attendance in advance. While a record of the number of these attendees exists, there is no record of which particular events they attended. Taken with those in the table above, this gives a total of 1,533 attendees.

The total cost for all 10 of the above events was £141,923.15. This included venue hire, audio-visual equipment, catering, branding and display materials, and support from an event management company. It is not possible to disaggregate these items into each budgetary category in respect of each event other than at disproportionate cost, as some items were based on a fee for all 10 events.

Local Government: Official Cars

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to encourage local authorities to buy British-made cars for official use. [278052]

Mr. Khan: Subject to their legal duties, including European procurement law and the duty of best value, local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many information leaflets have been produced for the *(a)* Homeowners Mortgage Support and *(b)* Mortgage Rescue Scheme; and how much has been spent on producing such leaflets. [277352]

John Healey: Consumer information leaflets for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme and Homeowners Mortgage

Support have been designed and produced at a cost of £9,000 for both leaflets. Hard copies are provided in response to requests from delivery partners and the Homeowners Mortgage Support leaflet is available to interested households and delivery partners electronically.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to begin its publication of statistics on take-up of the Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme. [278280]

John Healey: Official figures on numbers of households entering the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme will be published later this year.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when *(a)* HSBC, *(b)* Barclays, *(c)* Alliance and Leicester, *(d)* Abbey and *(e)* Nationwide began to offer comparable arrangements to the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme to their customers. [278282]

John Healey: HSBC, Barclays, Alliance and Leicester, Abbey and Nationwide have been offering their customers comparable arrangements to the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme, while opting not to take up the Government guarantee, since their commitment to do so in the press notice published by Communities and Local Government on 21 April 2009.

The press notice is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1205071

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when *(a)* the Bank of Ireland, *(b)* GE Money, *(c)* GMAC, *(d)* Kensington Mortgages, *(e)* the Post Office and *(f)* Standard Life Bank began to offer customers assistance under the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme. [278283]

John Healey: Standard Life Bank formally joined the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme on Wednesday 20 May 2009. The Government continue to work closely with the Bank of Ireland, GE Money, GMAC, Kensington Mortgages and the Post Office, all of whom are committed to join the scheme, to ensure that they are in a position to offer the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme as soon as possible.

Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether under the business rates deferral scheme local authorities will be required to issue a business with a rebate in cases where that business had already paid more than 40 per cent. of its 2009-10 rates liability at the time the deferral scheme became operational; [278390]

(2) whether under the business rates deferral scheme a business will be able to defer *(a)* a maximum of 60 per cent. of its 2009-10 business rate liability and *(b)* 60 per cent. of the amount of liability that remains unpaid at the time the deferral scheme became operational. [278391]

John Healey: As announced on 31 March 2009 and confirmed at Budget, the Government will enable business rate payers to defer payment of 60 per cent. of the annual RPI inflation increase in their 2009-10 business rates bills until 2010-11 and 2011-12. Ratepayers occupying property that received transitional relief in 2008-09 will in addition be able to defer payment of 60 per cent. of the increase in their 2009-10 rates bills due to the end of the 2005 transitional relief scheme.

The Government do not have the power to make the regulations that will implement the scheme apply retrospectively. So where a ratepayer has, for whatever reason, already paid their full liability for 2009-10 under the existing legislative scheme, the billing authority will not be able to grant the ratepayer a deferral and give the ratepayer a refund. However, all ratepayers with enough outstanding 2009-10 rates liabilities will be able to defer the amounts set out above, which will be deducted from their remaining 2009-10 instalment payments. Those whose outstanding rates liability is less than the amount they can defer will be able to defer whatever is remaining of their 2009-10 liability.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 202W, on Local Government Finance Act 1988, (1) whether she expects July 2009 to be the first billing month for companies using the business rates deferral scheme; and if she will make a statement; [278454]

(2) how many weeks after the coming into force of regulations implementing the business rates deferral scheme she expects local authorities to take to *(a)* inform businesses of the deferral option, *(b)* process requests for deferrals and *(c)* begin issuing rates bills that incorporate any requested deferral; [278420]

(3) what recent guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the time between coming into force of regulations in respect of the business rate deferral scheme and the issuing to businesses of revised bills. [278421]

John Healey: As announced on 31 March 2009, the Government are planning to bring regulations implementing the business rates deferral scheme into force by the end of July.

Further details on the timetable for implementation and the availability of the scheme to ratepayers are described in the business rate information letter issued on 5 June 2009. This letter, which was sent to all billing authorities in England, can be accessed at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/busratsl.htm

I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 203W, on non-domestic rates, whether the full funding by her Department of costs incurred by local authorities in administering the business rates deferral scheme is taken into account in the 2009-10 budget for her Department, as outlined in Table C11 on page 241 of the 2009 Budget Red Book. [278419]

John Healey: The figures cited in Table C11 of the 2009 Financial Statement and Budget Report setting out the Departmental Expenditure Limits for Communities and Local Government cover costs associated with implementing deferral of business rate payments.

Any net additional costs to local government as a whole arising from the business rates deferral scheme will be fully funded under the new burdens principle.

Official Hospitality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 7 May 2009, *Official Report,* column 397W, on official hospitality, (1) if she will make it her policy to publish declarations of *(a)* interest and *(b)* gifts and hospitality made by her Department's special advisers; [277141]

(2) what financial thresholds trigger requirements for her Department's special advisers to make a declaration of *(a)* interest and *(b)* gifts and hospitality. [277142]

Mr. Khan: Civil servants may not accept gifts, other than in very limited circumstances. Where a gift is accepted, departmental procedures require that details of all gifts, other than items such as diaries, calendars or other small items of modest value bearing a company's name or insignia, must be declared in writing.

All hospitality received by staff, with the exception of light refreshments and meals provided in the course of normal departmental business must also be declared in writing. Government publish information on hospitality received by departmental board members. A copy of the published board hospitality report can be found in the Library of the House, and on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/publications.aspx

In accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code, civil servants, including special advisers, must declare any business interests which they would be able to further as a result of their official position.

Smoke Alarms

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of rates of adoption of domestic smoke alarms between 1988 and 2000 on the rates of death from domestic fires in that period. [277783]

Mr. Khan: Smoke alarms are not designed to prevent fires. It is therefore not possible to make a causal link between the number of dwelling fires and smoke alarm ownership. The alarms are designed to alert people to the presence of a fire and thereby prevent deaths and injuries.

The percentage of households with a smoke alarm increased from 8 per cent. in 1988 to 83 per cent. in 2000. There were 64,200 primary dwelling fires in 1988. By 2000 the number of primary dwelling fires had increased to 70,900. However, the number of deaths in accidental dwelling fires fell from 661 in 1988 to 397 in 2000.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Travellers' caravans on unauthorised sites without planning permission in England, were *(a)* tolerated and *(b)* not tolerated on land (i) owned by the Travellers and (ii) not owned by the Travellers, in (A) January and (B) July in each year since 2000. [277030]

Mr. Iain Wright: The count of Gypsy and Traveller caravans, carried out in January and July each year, and published on the website of Communities and Local Government, provides details of the number of authorised and unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller caravan sites. It provides the following breakdown for the period January 2000 to January 2009:

	Unauthorised sites (without planning permission)			
	Number of caravans on sites on Gypsies' own land		*Number of caravans on sites on land not owned by Gypsies*	
Count Period	*Tolerated*	*Not tolerated*	*Tolerated*	*Not tolerated*
January 2009	1,279	1,086	770	545
July 2008	1,224	1,016	725	971
January 2008	1,054	1,233	687	823
July 2007	992	1,112	572	1,316
January 2007	997	1,255	491	795
July 2006	964	1,258	589	1,183
January 2006	714	1,440	438	680
July 2005	630	1,342	673	1,422
January 2005	704	1,563	513	778
July 2004	530	1,325	593	1,816
January 2004	610	1,367	573	1,021
July 2003	451	1,213	652	1,663
January 2003	505	903	539	1,081
July 2002	439	799	458	1,803
January 2002	533	604	615	1,022
July 2001	417	547	487	1,895
January 2001	458	507	379	1,259
July 2000	364	439	486	2,027
January 2000	299	429	684	1,104

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was allocated to the United Nations Development Programme by his Department for use in Afghanistan in each of the last five years; and what criteria there were for the allocation of such funds. [278561]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) allocation of its bilateral programme through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for use in Afghanistan in the last five years is listed as follows:

	£
2004-05	10,200,000
2005-06	5,100,000
2006-07	27,633,000
2007-08	19,958,000
2008-09	16,000,000

DFID contracts are tendered and awarded in accordance with DFID's procurement guidance, drawn up in line with the EU Public Procurement Directive.

Burma: Overseas Aid

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consideration the Government have given to further measures to deliver aid to the Irrawaddy Delta region of Burma following Cyclone Nargis. [278260]

Mr. Michael Foster: In March the UK Government committed an additional £20 million to Burma over two years, increasing the Department for International Development's aid programme to £25 million in 2009-10 and £28 million in 2010-11. Approximately 60 per cent. of this additional funding will be allocated to further relief following Cyclone Nargis. No UK aid is delivered though the Government of Burma.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid in interest to suppliers under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 in the last three years for which figures are available. [275198]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) payments under the Late Payments of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998 are published in the DFID Resource Accounts, which are available online at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to Lord Jones of Cheltenham of 11 May 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA159, on the Department for International Development: Comprehensive Spending Review, and with reference to page 40 paragraph 10.7 of the April 2009 Value for Money Update, what amount of value for money savings has been made by his Department as a result of sharing offices with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in each country where such office-sharing arrangements exist. [277684]

Mr. Michael Foster: Co-locating and sharing offices with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), where practical and feasible, can provide certain opportunities to reduce costs and to improve the effectiveness of our work abroad. In some countries these opportunities will contribute to the Department for International Development's (DFID) overall target to deliver value for money savings in administration costs. Progress towards this target is set out in DFID's Autumn Performance Report and Departmental Report. These documents are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years. [277152]

Mr. Michael Foster: The majority of the Department for International Development's (DFID) advertising expenditure relates to recruitment advertising. The breakdown of expenditure on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five financial years is as follows:

£

	Weekly publications	*Regional newspapers*
2004-05	6,139	91,458
2005-06	7,330	84,547
2006-07	2,303	26,658
2007-08	7,779	9,314
2008-09	Nil	28,505
Total	23,551	240,033

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of the public appointments for which his Department is responsible are due to be *(a)* renewed and *(b)* filled in the next 24 months; what the (i) remit, (ii) salary, (iii) political restriction, (iv) eligibility requirement and (v) timetable for each appointment is; and what records his Department keeps in respect of such appointments. [254242]

Mr. Michael Foster: Information on appointments made by the Department will be published in its annual report which will be available on its website in due course. Vacancies may be advertised on the Cabinet Office Public Appointments website at:

www.publicappointments.gov.uk

The process for making a public appointment, including guidance on political activity and eligibility criteria, follows the Cabinet Office publication "Making and Managing Public Appointments". For appointments regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments, the appointments process also complies with the "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies". Copies are in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to *(a)* recruitment agencies and *(b)* recruitment consultants in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available. [263970]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development only uses recruitment agencies to provide temporary staff. Since 2005 we have predominantly used three agencies.

The following table shows the total costs paid in the last three financial years to the three suppliers.

Financial year	*Total amount paid (£)*
2005-06	1,226,530
2006-07	1,113,890
2007-08	[1]857,156

[1] This total includes executive agency costs in the support of the recruitment of DFID's Permanent Secretary and two Non-Executive Directors.

Individual departments within DFID also have delegated authority to appoint professional and specialist staff from specialist suppliers and recruitment consultants, but details of this expenditure are not held centrally.

In accordance with the civil service recruitment code, all DFID permanent appointments are made on merit and on the basis of fair and open competition.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which UN humanitarian aid can be delivered to Gaza without hindrance. [277226]

Mr. Michael Foster: Although the Israeli Government announced on 25 March that all humanitarian food items would be allowed into Gaza, this has not yet been implemented. Inconsistent clearance criteria and thorough checks at crossings continue to cause delays.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza continues to be of serious concern. The UK Government monitor UN reporting closely and consistently lobby for unrestricted access for food and other humanitarian supplies into Gaza. We are funding the UN Logistics Cluster and the UN Access Support Team to help UN agencies and NGOs get aid into Gaza. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) provides up to date reports on the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including on delivery of aid into Gaza. These are available on its website:

http://www.ochaopt.org/

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of levels of access to Gaza for humanitarian aid and reconstruction material; and if he will make a statement. [273725]

Mr. Michael Foster: The United Nations (UN) has recently reported that the difficulty in importing concrete and construction materials continues to hinder efforts to rebuild homes and essential infrastructure destroyed during the conflict. Meaningful reconstruction will not be possible while restrictions remain in place. The UN estimate the lack of spare parts for public infrastructure and industrial equipment, along with restrictions on the entry of cash and fuel, is preventing the implementation of almost all planned early recovery activities. They also report that procedures for approved humanitarian items into Gaza remain subject to unclear and often inconsistent criteria. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) makes regular reports of the humanitarian situation in Gaza available on its website:

http://www.ochaopt.org/

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support his Department has given to the government of Sri Lanka for the construction and maintenance of resettlement camps for Tamil refugees in northern Sri Lanka in the last 12 months. [273222]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government have given no financial support to the Government of Sri Lanka.

Since September 2008 the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £12.5 million of humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka. Of this, approximately £6.5 million has been used to support resettlement camp work through impartial international agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

£6 million remains to respond rapidly to needs on the ground as they evolve.

St. Helena: Aviation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effects of not building an airport on St. Helena on the island's population. [277520]

Mr. Michael Foster: Demographic studies, carried out as part of the 2005 Feasibility Study, suggest that in the absence of air access, the population of St. Helena will decline by around 1.5 per cent. a year.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to reply to question 263970 on departmental recruitment tabled by the hon. Member for Cotswold on 11 March 2009. [277754]

Mr. Michael Foster: A response to parliamentary question 263970 has been issued.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in respect of Zimbabwean refugees living in Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries. [266162]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Zimbabwe's social and economic decline has forced many Zimbabweans to leave the country during the last few years. The vast majority of those leaving do so by irregular means and do not request refugee status. They are viewed by neighbouring governments as illegal economic migrants and run the risk of deportation. It is therefore difficult to assess their numbers or provide assistance. Since 2000, oppressive policies and post-election violence have also seen hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans forcibly displaced within the country. However the Government of Zimbabwe deny the existence of internally displaced people and have thus refused a comprehensive national assessment of their numbers and needs.

In Zimbabwe, the Department for International Development (DFID) is the second largest donor to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), providing £5 million to deliver humanitarian assistance to 250,000 Zimbabwean deportees from South Africa and 30,000 from Botswana, at key border crossing points, as well as over 240,000 victims of forced internal displacement. The UK also provides further support to Zimbabwean migrants, including street children, in Zambia and South Africa. DFID will provide around £49 million of humanitarian and other essential support to the people of Zimbabwe this financial year, none of which goes through the Government of Zimbabwe.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State for Business, Innovation, and Skills how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273941]

Mr. Simon: The information is as follows:

(a) No special advisers accompanied the Secretary of State or Lord Drayson to Glasgow when they attended the Cabinet meeting there on 16 April 2009.

(b) One official accompanied each Minister on their visit to Scotland to attend Cabinet in Glasgow on 16 April 2009—making two Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills officials in total.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on Wednesday 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State for Business, Innovation, and Skills what car journeys he undertook in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273942]

Mr. Simon: The then Secretary of State travelled from his London home to London City airport. On arrival, the then Secretary of State travelled by car from Glasgow airport to the regional Cabinet meeting. Following the Cabinet meeting, the Secretary of State went by car to visit the University of Strathclyde before returning to Glasgow airport. He flew back from Glasgow to Southampton airport and travelled to his constituency home.

Lord Drayson travelled to Bristol airport from his home to fly to Glasgow. He was driven from Glasgow airport to the University of Glasgow before journeying to the Cabinet meeting. Once the Cabinet meeting had finished, Lord Drayson travelled to Glasgow airport for his return flight to Bristol airport—from there he travelled home.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on Wednesday 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Companies House: Standards

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the performance of Companies House in achieving its targets in 2008-09. [278057]

Ian Pearson: A report on Companies House's performance is laid before Parliament each year before the summer recess. The report for 2008-09 will be laid on 16 July 2009.

Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his latest estimate is of the number of people who have a statutory right to request flexible working as a result of having been employed continuously for 26 weeks or more. [270809]

Mr. McFadden: The impact assessment produced in 2007 when the right to request flexible working was extended to carers of adults estimated that 2.65 million carers would be eligible.

The impact assessment published in March 2009 to accompany the Government response to the recent consultation on implementing the recommendations of the Walsh Review estimated that an additional 4.5 million parents would be eligible to request flexible working under the extended legislation. The impact assessment also estimated that 3.5 million parents were already eligible under the existing legislation. The total number of parents who have the statutory right to request flexible working is around 8 million.

Overall more than 10 million employees have the statutory right to request flexible working.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many contracts his Department has held with *(a)* UBS, *(b)* Barclays Capital, *(c)* Goldman Sachs, *(d)* Morgan Stanley, *(e)* Credit Suisse, *(f)* Merrill Lynch and *(g)* Lehman Brothers in the financial year 2008-09; what the monetary value was of each such contract; and for what purposes each contract was awarded. [261487]

Mr. McFadden: The Shareholder Executive engaged UBS on three separate assignments—the sale of British Energy, the sale of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's sites and to advise the Shareholder Executive on the process for finding suitable partners for Royal Mail. These assignments were covered by two separate contracts, the values of which are commercially confidential on an individual basis but with the total value up to £15 million depending on success factors.

The Department also spent £135,175 with Credit Suisse Securities (Europe) Ltd in financial year 2008-09. These relate to salary costs for the secondment of Philip Remnant as Chairman of the Shareholder Executive.

The Department does not currently have any contracts with Barclays Capital, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers and has not made any payments to them in 2008-09.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials work in the *(a)* Further Education, *(b)* Higher Education and *(c)* Business and Skills division of his Department's Universities and Skills Directorate. [277990]

Mr. Simon: As of 31 March 2009, 457 officials work in the Department's Further Education and Skills and Higher Education Groups. This figure is taken from the TRENT payroll system.

Further Education and Skills Group (FESG): 310

Higher Education Group: 147.

This includes 13 staff working in the Joint Apprenticeship Unit, which reports to both DCSF and DIUS.

These two Groups are currently restructuring to become the Universities and Skills Group with a separate Directorate whose work will be to set up the new Skills Funding Agency. Adult Skills Directorate, which was part of FESG will be moving to join the new Business Innovation Group.

The staffing for the new groups is being finalised, until it is we cannot give final information on staff numbers.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275351]

Mr. McFadden: In the 12-month period up to 30 April 2009, 78.5 per cent. of all office supplies purchased by the then Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform were considered sustainable and annotated as such by our supplier.

Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Bailey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the reduction or removal of trade credit insurance on the exports of small and medium-sized enterprises. [273229]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 May 2009]:* The Government are aware of the problems that some businesses are facing in getting access to short-term export finance. ECGD is consulting on a new facility to support UK exporters by sharing risk with banks that confirm letters of credit for UK exporters. The Export Credits Guarantee Department is also considering other potential interventions in the short-term market.

Graduates: Science

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State for Business, Innovation, and Skills how many and what proportion of postgraduate students studying *(a)* science, *(b)* technology, *(c)* engineering and *(d)* mathematics subjects took their first degree in the UK in (i) the period 1979 to 1984 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [277816]

Mr. Lammy: Figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show in the 2007/08 academic year 73,150 postgraduate enrolments listed their highest qualification on entry to their science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) postgraduate course as a first degree from a UK institution. This represents 41 per cent. of all STEM postgraduate enrolments whose highest qualification on entry is known. Equivalent figures for 1976 to 1980 are not available.

It is important to note that students who entered their STEM postgraduate course with a qualification higher than a first degree (i.e. those who already held a postgraduate qualification) will not be included in the above figures. A number of these students may have obtained a first degree from a UK institution.

Higher Education: Plymouth

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students resident in Plymouth, Sutton were in higher education in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest date for which information is available. [276682]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2008-09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Enrolments[1] from Plymouth Sutton parliamentary constituency[2] UK higher education institutions—Academic years 1997-98 and 2007-08

Academic year	*Enrolments*
1997-98	2,405
2007-08	3,710

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Parliamentary constituency is defined by full and valid home postcodes recorded on the HESA student record.

Note:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Insolvency: Greater London

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Chingford and *(b)* Woodford Green have entered administration in the last 12 months. [264788]

Mr. McFadden: There were 4,820 administrations (Enterprise Act 2002) in England and Wales in 2008. Statistics covering business administrations are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Metals: Prices

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of recent reductions in scrap metal prices on the scrap metal industry and employment levels in that industry. [273341]

Ian Pearson: The recent fall in scrap metal prices is a global issue brought about by a sharp reduction in world metals demand and production, which has fed through to the entire supply chain for this sector including raw materials such as scrap metal. Official employment statistics do not identify numbers employed in the scrap metals industry, although the data do show that employment in basic metals production fell by 14.7 per cent. between January 2005 and February 2009.

Minimum Wage

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to announce the outcome of his Department's consultation on proposals to amend national minimum wage regulations in order to end the practice of tips being counted towards payment of the national minimum wage. [278166]

Mr. McFadden: The outcome of our consultation on tips and the national minimum wage was issued on 6 May 2009. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and from BERR's website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51166.pdf.

Newsagents: Closures

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions the Secretary of State has had with ministerial colleagues on the effect of closures of local newsagents on local communities. [276026]

Ian Pearson: My noble Friend the Secretary of State and BIS Ministers meet regularly and discuss a wide range of issues.

Professional Bodies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many complaints have been made against each recognised professional body in each of the last three years; and in how many such cases his Department and its predecessor intervened; [261586]

(2) how many individuals are licensed by each recognised professional body. [261588]

Ian Pearson: The Department sometimes receives complaints about accounting firms and professional bodies. In these cases we refer the complainant to the relevant professional body or to the Professional Oversight Board as appropriate. The information on the numbers of complaints received by the Professional Oversight Board is contained in its Annual Report to my noble Friend the Secretary of State, on pages 23 and 47. This is published on the website of the Financial Reporting Council

http://www.frc.org.uk/.

The information about the number of complaints in which the Department intervened is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

With regards to the question as to how many individuals are licensed by each recognised professional body, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not hold this information. The Director of the Professional Oversight Board of the Financial Reporting Council has informed us that he wrote to my hon. Friend on this matter on 19 March 2009.

Regulation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will introduce legislation to replace the recognised professional bodies with a single statutory regulator. [263853]

Ian Pearson: The Government have no plans to replace the existing professional bodies. In 2002 Parliament set up the current regime, which gives the Financial Reporting Council and its operating bodies oversight over the recognised professional bodies. This is kept under review by the Government, but the Government have no evidence that this system is not working well.

Risk and Regulation Advisory Council: Expenditure

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what expenditure under which budgetary headings the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council incurred on *(a)* forum events, *(b)* research, *(c)* publishing and *(d)* public relations in 2008-09; and what sums under which budgetary headings the Council budgeted for (i) secretarial and (ii) administrative costs in that year. [272073]

Ian Pearson: The Risk and Regulation Advisory Council (RRAC) support team is co-located with the Operational Research Unit in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and they have operated from mid-financial year 2008-09 as a single unit for accounting purposes. The following figures are the most detailed currently available for the combined unit, and should be considered estimates prior to the publication of BERR final accounts for 2008-09.

Public Relations and Marketing: £114,000—which includes forum events, publishing and public relations.

Research: £125,000—*(b)* research.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1448W.

Students: Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of students in further education who supplement their student loans with a part-time job. [278016]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2007/8, published on the 21 April 2009, is a comprehensive study of student income, expenditure, borrowing and debt. It showed that 53 per cent. of all English domiciled full-time undergraduate students undertook paid work at some time during the academic year—either during term-time, during the short vacations or both. For those undertaking such work, earnings over the academic year were on average £4,005 (after tax).

JUSTICE

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years. [277643]

Mr. Wills: All Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

The steps the Ministry of Justice has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years are publicised on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/adapt/programme/moj.htm

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277718]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice is not yet at the stage where it can provide information on what estimate has been made of potential gross costs *(a)* savings and *(b)* arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years.

It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act 2008 coming in to force.

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* charges and *(b)* prosecutions there have been under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 of retailers suspected of selling tobacco to those aged under 18 years. [278284]

Maria Eagle: New retailer sanctions under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 for the persistent sale of tobacco products to young people under the age of 18 years came into force on 1 April 2009.

Court proceedings data for 2009 will be available in the autumn of 2010.

Departmental Foreign Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people employed by his Department are Republic of Ireland nationals. [278109]

Mr. Wills: Information on the nationality of Ministry of Justice staff (including public sector Prison Service and National Offender Management Service Headquarters staff) is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Justice's application packs contain information about nationality requirements and documentary evidence is rigorously checked at interview stage. At point of employment the Ministry of Justice ensures that the correct security checks and clearances are made.

Departmental Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of staff aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 65 years his Department employs. [278116]

Mr. Wills: On 30 April 2009 the Ministry of Justice employed *(a)* 14,314 staff over 55 years of age and *(b)* 801 staff over 65 years of age.

Fines

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of fines issued for *(a)* shoplifting, *(b)* parking offences and *(c)* alcohol-related offences were paid (i) at the first opportunity and (ii) after a court appearance in the last 12 months. [272311]

Mr. Straw: Information held by the Ministry of Justice for the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) issued to persons aged 16 and over for the offence of Theft (retail under £200), and for alcohol related offences in England and Wales in 2007 that were paid (i) at the earliest opportunity within the 21 day suspended enforcement period is shown in the table. 21 days is the minimum period before which forces can register a fine against the recipient for not responding to a notice, so forces can accept payments after the SEP for administrative purposes. It is not possible to identify the payment rate of fines arising from unpaid PNDs separately from other court-imposed fines. However, the latest enforcement rate for all fines including those from unpaid PNDs, is 85.2 per cent. for the period April to December 2008.

Information on the number of persons who requested a court appearance after being issued with a PND has been provided in the table. It is not possible from the information collected centrally to provide details on the outcomes of these cases.

PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Certain motoring offences, including parking offences where not de-criminalised, can be dealt with by the offer of a fixed penalty. Information reported to the Home Office on outcomes of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) are not broken down by offence, therefore data on payment rates for FPNs for parking offences are not available.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PND) issued to offenders aged 16 and over for selected offences and outcome England and Wales 2007[1]

Offence	*Number issued*	*Paid in full within 21 days*	*Percentage*	*Court hearing requested*	*Percentage*
Shoplifting					
Theft (retail under £200)[3]	45,146	15,390	34	172	0
Alcohol related offences					
Drunk and disorderly[2]	46,996	19,727	42	244	1
Sale of alcohol to drunken person[5]	81	50	62	3	4
Supply of alcohol to a person under 18	54	31	57	1	2
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18[3]	3,583	2,623	73	13	0
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18[3]	555	244	44	4	1
Purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 for consumption on the premises	64	23	36	—	—
Delivery of alcohol to a person under 18 or allowing such delivery[5]	431	219	51	1	0
Drunk in a highway	2,066	942	46	8	0
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	1,544	259	17	6	0
Consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[3]	85	55	65	—	—
Allowing consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 on relevant premises[3]	11	8	73	—	—
Buying or Attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18[4]	158	85	54	—	—
Alcohol related offences total	55,628	24,266	44	280	1

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence moved from the lower tier (£50) to the upper tier (£80) on 1 November 2004.

[3] Offence added with effect from 1 November 2004.

[4] Offence added with effect from 11 October 2004.

[5] Offence added with effect from 4 April 2005.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice

Internet: Advertising

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the data sharing implications of Phorm. [278480]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has recently received a number of representations on the data sharing implications of Phorm. Those representations tended to focus on issues surrounding privacy and consent regarding the Phorm Trial.

The Information Commissioner's Office is the independent regulator with responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Representations have also been made to the Information Commissioner about the data sharing implications of Phorm and he has noted his intention to keep the matter under review.

Land Registry: Complaints

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about the way in which a land registration decision had been reached were investigated by the Office of the Independent Complaints Reviewer in each of the last three years. [277963]

Mr. Wills: The figures set out in the following table show the number of complaint reviews completed and the number of separate allegations investigated that were considered in the reviews. The 2008-09 annual report has not been finalised.

	Number of complaints	*Number of allegations investigated*
2005-06	16	75
2006-07	24	121
2007-08	22	98

Lindholme Prison

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners at Lindholme Prison share a cell designed for two cellmates with at least two others in each of the last three years. [275533]

Mr. Straw: Information provided by the prison shows that at Lindholme Prison no cell designed for two occupants has been used to hold more than two occupants in the last three years.

National Offender Management Information System

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who each Senior Responsible Owner of the C-NOMIS is; and on what date each was appointed. [276035]

Mr. Straw: There have been three Senior Responsible Owners of the C-NOMIS Project and its successor, the NOMIS Programme. Their names and dates of appointment are as follows:

Christine Knott (SRO C-NOMIS Project)—June 2004;

Roger Hill (SRO C-NOMIS Project/NOMIS Programme)—April 2007;

Ann Beasley (SRO NOMIS Programme)—April 2008.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost of recruitment of Directors of Offender Management in the National Offender Management Service has been to date; [277799]

(2) whether all the vacancies in the National Offender Management Service for Directors of Offender Management have been filled; [277800]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the National Offender Management Service of employing each of its Directors of Offender Management in 2009-10. [277801]

Mr. Straw: The recruitment costs for the directors of Offender Management (DOM) in the National Offender Management Service is £168,000 as of 4 June 2009.

Nine of the 10 vacancies for DOM have been filled. The remaining vacancy, the north-east, is currently being covered by an interim appointment.

The director of Offender Management role has been evaluated, in all cases, to be senior civil servant (SCS) pay band 2. The salaries paid will be commensurate with this pay band and are expected to be in the region of £80,000 to £120,000. The exact salaries of the directors will be different because the roles vary in scale and this will be recognised accordingly.

The savings generated from the regional restructuring in the National Offender Management Service, which includes the creation and appointment of directors of Offender Management will result in a cost base reduction of £10 million.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department has incurred on the National Offender Management Service in each year since the service was established. [277802]

Mr. Straw: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) became part of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) when it was formed in May 2007. Before then it was part of the Home Office.

The NOMS agency unaudited resource and capital expenditure outturn for the financial year 2009-09 is: resource £4,452 million and capital £550 million. The final audited figures will be included in the MOJ annual departmental report and accounts that will be published in due course.

The agency's predecessor was announced in January 2004. The resource and capital expenditure outturn figures for each financial year are shown as follows.

£ million

Financial year	*Resource*	*Capital*
2007-08	4,722	577
2006-07	4,358	400
2005-06	4,034	354
2004-05	3,680	403

Figures for 2004-05 to 2006-07 have been taken from the Ministry of Justice departmental report 2007-08. Figures for 2007-08 have been taken from the Ministry of Justice annual accounts 2007-08.

The figures for 2008-09 will not be directly comparable with those for previous years as a result of the reorganisation of the service and the establishment of the new NOMS Agency, and the transfer of strategic functions to the newly formed Criminal Justice Group in the MOJ, from April 2008.

National Offender Management Service: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much time the National Offender Management Service spent recording ethnic monitoring data in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [277805]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not collected centrally. An accurate calculation of time spent recording and collating ethnic monitoring data would involve calculations across a number of processes and functions in prisons, young offender institutions and probations areas locally and at a regional and national level. Gathering this information would be at disproportionate cost.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 80-81W, on prison accommodation, if he will publish *(a)* the original list of sites provided by the Ministry of Defence in 2006, *(b)* the refined list produced by the National Offender Management Service and *(c)* a list of the sites which were subsequently visited and assessed in further detail. [278255]

Mr. Straw: The following shows the list of sites included on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) disposal list, issued in March 2006[1]. A number of options relating to sites under consideration for disposal by the MOD but not included on the disposals lists were also discussed.

A short list of former military sites with potential for prison development was subsequently identified. This included 18 sites on the March 2006 MOD disposal list, indicated in the table, as well as Chelsea Barracks, RAF West Drayton, Rowcroft Barracks and RAF Coltishall.

DCSA Inskip, Preston[2]

RAF Church Fenton, Tadcaster[2]

Uniter Rawcliffe, Goole

ATE Caerwent

Croughton highway land, Brackley
RAF Stoke Holy Cross, Poringland
RAF Syerston[2]
RAF Watton[2]
TAC Worcester[2]
RAF Kinloss
Peterhead SFA
Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot[2]
Upnor Bridging Hard, Frindsbury
Kent Volunteer Estate, Maidstone
Wandsworth Volunteer Estate, Balham
Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot
Aldershot Garrison[2]
Browning Barracks, Aldershot
Normandy Barracks Montgomery Lines, Aldershot
Invicta Park Barracks, Maidstone
RAF High Wycombe[2]
Parsons Barracks, Aldershot
Thornhill Barracks, Aldershot
Ordnance Barracks, Aldershot
HMS Daedalus, Gosport and Fareham[2]
RNMT Portsmouth
DMC Plymouth
HMS Nelson, Portsmouth
DMC Bullpoint, Plymouth
Commando Training Centre, Honiton
Bovington Camp, Wareham
RAF Lyneham
Wyke Regis Training Area, Weymouth
GPSS Goostrey, Holmes Chapel
Anzio Barracks, Leek[2]
HMS Forest Moor, Harrogate[2]
RAF Boulmer
RAE Llanbedr
RAF West Raynham[2]
DPA Seismic Stations, Norfolk
RAF Newton[2]
Arbroath SFA
Cultybraggan Trg Camp, Crieff
Rathfriland
Killymeal Hse, Dungannon
Aughnacloy
Clogher
Kinmel Park, Kinmel
RAF Neatishead
Dreghorn Bks, Edinburgh
RAF Alconbury[2]
Lisnaskea
Shetland Islands SFA, Haroldswick
RAF Halton, Wendover[2]
RAF Brize Norton, Bicester[2]
DMC Dean Hill, West Dean[2]
DLO Pinash Lane, Bristol
Wainscott Barracks
Drummond Barracks, Ludgershall
RNAD Broughton Moor
DERA Eskmeals, Millom
Eskmeals, Millom
Hillside Crescent, Ashton under Lyne
RAF Tuddenham
Aberdeen SFA
Forres SFA
Kinloss SFA
Lossiemouth SFA
DE West Freugh, Portpatrick
Helensburgh SFA, Rhu
HMNB Clyde, Rosneath
DE Farnborough, Aldershot
Rochester
RAF Fire Service Central Training Establishment, Ramsgate
Seaton Barracks, Plymouth
GPSS Swanvale, Falmouth
RAF St. Mawgan, Newquay
Ashchurch SFA, Tewkesbury
Salisbury SFA, Wilton
DE Durrington, Salisbury
Devizes SFA
RAF Chilmark, Salisbury[2]
DE Durrington, Salisbury

[1] Where more than one site within an establishment is listed for disposal, only the establishment is shown

[2] Sites assessed as potential for prison development

A number of former military sites were visited by the National Offender Management Service officials since 2006 to assess further their potential for prison development. These are listed as follows and include Rousillon Barracks, previously used for prison use, and Connaught Barracks.

RAF Alconbury;
Aldershot Garrison;
Anzio Barracks;
RAF Coltishall;
Connaught Barracks;
Rousillon Barracks.

A proposal to convert Connaught Barracks to a prison was considered but a decision was taken not to proceed.

In response to Lord Carter's report, "Securing the Future: Proposals for the Efficient and Sustainable Use of Custody in England and Wales", in January 2008 Ministers agreed to the acquisition of the former RAF Coltishall site in Norfolk for conversion to a prison.

With the exception of Coltishall, there are no current plans to build new prisons on any of these former military sites.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cells are not in use in each *(a)* prison for adult males, *(b)* prison for adult females, *(c)* young offender institution for males and *(d)* young offender institution for females; and for what reasons the cells are not in use in each such institution. [278394]

Mr. Hanson: From the current data available there are 1,729 places recorded as out of use from the total certified normal accommodation (CNA) of the prison estate. This represents 2.3 per cent. of the total CNA.

The data available do not allow for a breakdown of whether these places are for young offenders or adults.

Comprehensive information on why these places are out of use is not held centrally, however the majority of out of use accommodation will be due to maintenance or refurbishment work taking place.

There is a planned programme of refurbishment of accommodation which requires the temporary closure of prison places. This allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken while having no significant change on the number of net places in use, e.g. 127 places are currently out of use at HMP Swaleside to enable essential electrical re-wiring of one wing to take place.

The following tables show the total number of places that were recorded as out of use by male and female establishments.

HMP Ashwell has 415 places out of use following an incident in April. HMP Wealstun has 380 places out of use while part of the establishment is re-rolled to closed conditions.

Male establishments

Establishment name	*Number of places out of use*	*Percentage of CNA*
Ashfield	7	1.7
Ashwell	415	69.3
Bedford	3	0.9
Buckley Hall	4	1.1
Camp Hill	1	0.2
Channings Wood	2	0.3
Cookham Wood	30	21.4
Dartmoor	20	3.2
Dorchester	8	5.5
Elmley	18	2.4
Full Sutton	8	1.3
Grendon	50	23.3
Highpoint	14	1.5
Hindley	84	14.0
Kingston	24	12.1
Lincoln	12	2.7
Liverpool	20	1.7
Norwich	5	1.1
Pentonville	100	11.0
Portland	20	3.3
Ranby	25	2.6
Risley	2	0.2
Rochester	107	16.7
Shrewsbury	7	3.8
Spring Hill	1	0.3
Standford Hill	2	0.4
Stoke Heath	72	11.4
Swaleside	127	13.6
Swansea	16	7.3
Wealstun	380	42.9
Whatton	3	0.4
Whitemoor	28	5.7
Woodhill	5	0.8

Female establishments

Establishment	*Number of places out of use*	*Percentage of CNA*
Askham Grange	24	18.0
East Sutton Park	3	3.1
Foston Hall	19	6.7
Holloway	33	6.2
Low Newton	16	5.1
Styal	2	0.4

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners had been reassessed and recategorised into a different security level to that of their current prison on 1 March 2009 and were awaiting transfer and unable to be moved; and for how long each had been awaiting transfer. [278703]

Mr. Hanson: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would involve contacting every prison who would then have to consult individual prisoner records.

There has been no relaxation of security categorisation standards.

Public protection remains paramount when undertaking the categorisation process.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* infrastructural and physical and *(b)* security criteria are for buildings that are to be designated (i) category C and (ii) category D prisons. [277068]

Mr. Straw: Category A, B, C and D refers to the regime by which prisoners are managed, not the prison. All prisons, apart from open (Category D) prisons, are built to common standard, with certain modifications where additional security requirements are required and appropriate to the category of prisoner housed there.

Category C are prisoners who cannot be trusted in open conditions but who do not have the resources and will to make a determined escape attempt. The security in prisons holding these prisoners will include a secure fence/wall in accommodation blocks.

Category D are prisoners who present a low risk, can reasonably be trusted in open conditions and for whom open conditions are appropriate. There are currently no direct build standards for Category D conditions.

Prisons: Military Bases

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many disused military sites have been acquired and converted into category *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C and *(d)* D prisons in each of the last 30 years. [278638]

Mr. Straw: A total of 39 new prisons, including the prison ship the Weare which has since closed, have opened since 1979.

A number of these were built on sites either directly acquired from the Ministry of Defence (MOD), or acquired from a third partly but which previously belonged to the MOD.

A detailed investigation of the site records is necessary to determine their precise origin. I will write to the hon. and learned Member as soon as this investigation is complete.

Probation Officers

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to ensure that trainee probation officers due to qualify in September 2009 are offered jobs in the Probation Service. [277747]

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of trainee probation officers who will qualify in 2009 and *(b)* the number of jobs available to newly qualified probation officers in 2009. [277837]

Mr. Hanson: There are 556 trainee probation officers (TPOs) due to complete the Diploma in Probation Studies in September 2009. A recent survey of the 42 probation areas, who are the employers, has shown that it is too soon to be certain how many of these graduates will be offered jobs in the Probation Service.

The regional directors of Offender Management have been asked to review the position of their local Probation Boards and Trusts to ensure that decisions about TPO employment are based on credible workforce plans that take full account of the staffing requirements of the next three years within the region and elsewhere in the country.

Probation: Expenditure

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure his Department and its predecessor incurred on the Probation Service in each year since 2000. [277806]

Mr. Straw: Expenditure on probation services is as follows:

		£ million
	Resource	*Capital*
2000-01	539	16
2001-02	596	39
2002-03	660	17
2003-04	768	20
2004-05	768	28
2005-06	906	4
2006-07	920	5
2007-08	976	15

Information for 2008-09 is not yet available. The financial data include probation boards, the National Probation Directorate and (from 2004-05) the National Offender Management Service. Comparisons over a long period are difficult due to machinery of government changes and accounting methodology changes.

Probation: North Yorkshire

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload was for North Yorkshire Probation Area on 31 March of each of the last five financial years; [277058]

(2) how many cases were referred to multi-agency public protection panels in North Yorkshire Probation Area in each of the last five financial years. [277062]

Mr. Hanson: The total community and pre-release custodial offender caseload for North Yorkshire as at 31 March in each of the last five years was as follows:

	Supervised in community	*Supervised in custody*
2004	1,451	544
2005	1,562	527
2006	1,767	541
2007	1,805	582
2008	1,717	551

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The following table shows the total number of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) eligible offenders living in the community in North Yorkshire. The table also shows the number of eligible offenders who were managed at the higher MAPPA levels and who were considered by multi-agency public protection panels. Cases are referred to level 2 where the ongoing involvement of several agencies will be required to implement or monitor the risk management plan and to level 3 where more senior oversight is additionally required. The data are taken from North Yorkshire's MAPPA annual report.

North Yorkshire

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total MAPPA eligible offenders	425	507	490	605	632
Level 2	[1]—	91	81	192	192
Level 3	27	18	17	21	21

[1] Not collected.

The doubling of level 2 cases from 2006 to 2007 reflects a change in the way North Yorkshire approached identifying category 3 cases and not a doubling of complex cases at that time.

There has been a 70 per cent. increase in probation funding in real terms over the last 10 years and an increase of more than a third in staff. The Probation Service continues to cut reoffending rates, increase successful drug treatments and offending behaviour programmes, and carry out visible and punitive community payback.

Probation: Staffordshire

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload for Staffordshire probation area was on 31 March in each of the last five financial years; [276982]

(2) how many cases the Staffordshire probation area referred to multi-agency public protection panels in each of the last five financial years; [276983]

(3) how many offenders in Staffordshire probation area were categorised as Tier 4 in each of the last five financial years. [276984]

Mr. Hanson: The total community and pre-release custodial offender caseload for Staffordshire as at 31 March in each of the last five years was as follows:

	Supervised in community	*Supervised in custody*
2004	2,834	931
2005	2,839	914

	Supervised in community	*Supervised in custody*
2006	3,009	969
2007	3,227	982
2008	3,224	1,058

The total number of offenders in Staffordshire who were categorised as Tier 4 as at 31 March in each of the last three years was as follows:

	Number
2006	522
2007	752
2008	825

Information on tier prior to 1 April 2005 was not recorded.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The following table shows the total number of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) eligible offenders living in the community in Staffordshire. The table also shows the number of eligible offenders who were managed at the higher MAPPA levels and who were considered by multi-agency public protection panels. Cases are referred to level 2 where the ongoing involvement of several agencies will be required to implement or monitor the risk management plan and to level 3 where more senior oversight is additionally required. Cases can be referred by any agency but the identity of the referring agency is not recorded. This data is taken from Staffordshire's MAPPA annual report.

Staffordshire

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total MAPPA eligible offenders	652	722	798	841	920
Level 2	[1]—	298	277	295	283
Level 3	48	43	33	46	37

[1] Not collected.

There has been a 70 per cent. increase in probation funding in real terms over the last 10 years and an increase of more than a third in staff. The Probation Service continues to cut reoffending rates, increase successful drug treatments and offending behaviour programmes, and carry out visible and punitive community payback.

Referral Orders

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many young people are subject to referral orders; [278099]

(2) how many referral orders have been made in the last six months. [278107]

Mr. Hanson: The referral order is the primary community sentence for under 18s. It is available for under 18s appearing in court for the first time who plead guilty. Legislation implemented on 27 April has extended the availability of the referral order so that a referral order may now be made on second conviction where the offender pleads guilty and has not previously had a referral order. Also, in exceptional circumstances, on the recommendation of the youth offending team, a second referral order may be made where the offender pleads guilty.

Under a referral order the young offender is referred to a youth offender panel consisting of two volunteers from the community advised by a member from the youth offending team (YOT). The young offender is required to attend the panel with their parent/s and must agree a contract which includes reparation or restoration to the victim, or the wider community if there is no direct victim or the victim does not wish to be directly involved, and a programme of interventions and activities to address their offending behaviour. A referral order can be made for a maximum period of 12 months.

The most recent information on the number of referral orders made is for 2007. In this year a total of 29,090 referral orders were made. Court proceedings data are not yet available for 2008 or 2009.

Regional Offender Managers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offender managers were in post in the Prison Service in each of the last three years. [277807]

Mr. Straw: Offender managers are national probation service staff who are probation officers, senior practitioners, senior probation officers and professional development assessors.

The latest available data, which are from 31 December 2007, show that there were 508 staff carrying out these roles in Prison Service establishments. Information relating to the two more recent years is subject to a validation exercise and is not yet available.

Restorative Justice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's high-visibility community payback schemes; [278105]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken in connection with the high-visibility community payback scheme. [278098]

Mr. Hanson: Probation areas have been required to promote the unpaid work community sentence as Community Payback since 2005. This has been done in a variety of ways including the use of signs at Community Payback work sites and on vehicles. In addition probation areas have also worked to generate local and national publicity in order to increase public awareness of the millions of hours worked by offenders to make reparation for the crimes and to improve local communities. To further increase visibility and public confidence the use of distinctive clothing, to be worn by offenders sentenced to Community Payback, was introduced on 1 December 2008. This followed the review, 'Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime', which proposed that community payback should be made increasingly visible. A survey of members of the public conducted as part of the review found that:

> 90 per cent. agreed that all punishments for crime should involve some payback to the community;

77 per cent. agreed that people should be informed about when and where the work would be carried out; and

a strong majority wanted work under community sentencing to be made more visible.

The number of hours worked by offenders and the number of Community Payback work projects on which high visibility clothing is worn is recorded by the National Offender Management Service and in March over 400,000 hours of Community Payback were undertaken by offenders wearing the distinctive clothing.

Community Payback has featured in the recent 'Justice Seen, Justice Done' campaign where the public were able to have their say on work offenders carry out in 54 local authority areas. The Community Payback work projects nominated will be announced in the near future. Further work will also be undertaken to determine the level of public awareness of Community Payback.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have served on high-visibility community payback schemes in the last six months. [278103]

Mr. Hanson: The use of high-visibility clothing by offenders undertaking community payback was introduced on 1 December 2008. Implementation of this policy has been monitored by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The overwhelming majority of the offenders comply with this requirement. The number of hours worked by offenders and the number of community payback work projects on which high visibility clothing is worn are recorded by NOMS. Data are available for the period December 2008 to March 2009 and are shown in the following table.

Number of community payback projects operated and number of hours worked using high-visibility clothing

	Number of projects	*Hours worked*
December	2,566	210,974
January	2,538	321,853
February	2,422	326,618
March	2,938	401,680

West Midlands Probation Service

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload has been of West Midlands Probation Service on 31 March in each year since 2004. [276912]

Mr. Hanson: The total community and pre-release custodial offender caseload for West Midlands as at 31 March in each of the last five years was as follows:

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Supervised in community	12,872	12,966	12,992	13,550	13,530
Supervised in custody	5,907	5,992	6,202	6,182	6,142

Total probation staffing (expressed as full time equivalents) was up from 13,968 in 1997 to 20,869 by June 2007, a 49 per cent. increase over the period.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

West Midlands Probation Service: Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of the budget of West Midlands Probation Service has been spent on management and administration in each year since 2004-05. [276913]

Mr. Hanson: The proportion of the west midlands probation budget spent on management and administration is:

	Percentage
2004-05	17.8
2005-06	18.8
2006-07	15.6
2007-08	14.5
2008-09	16.6

West Midlands Probation Service: Manpower

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* qualified probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers have been employed by West Midlands Probation Service on 31 March in each year since 2004. [276911]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the numbers of probation officers and probation service officers in post in the west midlands probation area on 31 March in each year since 2004:

	Probation officers[1]	*Probation service officers*
2003-04	407	215
2004-05	446	327
2005-06	482	384
2006-07	499	411
2007-08[2]	473	388

[1] Probation officer figures include senior probation officers, senior practitioners and probation officers.

[2] The information provided has yet to be published and may therefore be subject to minor amendment upon publication.

Notes:

1. Figures are shown as full-time equivalents.
2. Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.

Young Offenders: Crime Prevention

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Youth Justice Board allocated to programmes aimed at reducing re-offending in each year since 1999. [277796]

Mr. Straw: Local authorities' youth offending teams are responsible for providing and commissioning local programmes aimed at reducing reoffending. Funding for youth offending teams comes from a variety of agencies, such as the police, probation and social services. The following table shows the amount of funding that the Youth Justice Board has allocated to youth offending teams in England and Wales since 2000-01 when the teams came into being.

	£ million
2000-01	39
2001-02	69
2002-03	100
2003-04	102
2004-05	113
2005-06	115
2006-07	117
2007-08	117
2008-09	115

In addition, programmes to reduce reoffending are run within the secure estate. However, the cost of these is incorporated in the overall "cost per bed" and it is not possible to identify the expenditure separately.

The recently published National Statistics on Juvenile Reoffending show that juvenile reoffending is at its lowest since records for the frequency of reoffending began in 2000. This success reflects the Government's investment in the youth justice system and the significant reforms implemented over the past 12 years.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has allocated to the Youth Justice Board for preventative programmes in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [277798]

Mr. Straw: For 2009-10, the Youth Justice Board has allocated £11 million for preventative programmes from its Ministry of Justice grant. In addition, the Youth Justice Board will receive £6 million from the Department of Children, Schools and Families and £18 million from the Home Office for preventative programmes.

Final budgets for 2010-11 and 2011-12 will be allocated at the beginning of the financial year.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 9 June 2009

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what allowances were available to hon. Members in each Session since 1983-84; what conditions were imposed on payments made under each such allowance in each Session; what the maximum amount claimable by an hon. Member under each such allowance was in each Session; and if he will make a statement. [278449]

Nick Harvey: A number of allowances have been available to Members since 1983-84. Information about these allowances, including the levels Members could claim, is published in regular House of Commons Library Research papers. These are available in the Library.

Allowances have included the additional costs allowance (now personal additional accommodation expenditure), office costs allowance (renamed the incidental expenses provision and then administrative and office expenditure), travel allowances and the communications allowance (now communications expenditure). Each allowance has been put in place to assist Members in carrying out their parliamentary duties and was approved by Resolution of the House.

The conditions relating to each of the allowances have been published in the Green Book, the first edition of which was published in 1987. These are available in the Library. Prior to 1987, Members were able to ask for advice from the then Fees Office. No records exist of the conditions imposed at this time.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate has been made of the number of vacancies for *(a)* flood risk engineers, *(b)* flood risk planners, *(c)* flood risk project managers and *(d)* other flood risk management posts in local authorities. [277399]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

We have not specifically sought to estimate the number of vacancies with local authorities relating to flood risk. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in association with the Local Government Association, conducted a survey of all local authorities in autumn 2008 to make an initial assessment of existing local authority capacity and expertise. The survey revealed some encouraging evidence of existing levels of capacity that could be built upon and also identified that this was not a consistent picture across all authorities. The survey also confirmed that additional capacity would be required to take on proposed new duties from the Pitt Review and that recruitment difficulties and the availability particularly of technical skills would need to be addressed.

The survey asked local authorities how easy it was for them to recruit the technical staff they needed. 59 per cent. said this did not apply or they did not know, which could be interpreted as meaning that they were not recruiting or had not tried recently. 27 per cent. reported having some difficultly. The main reasons given for recruitment difficulties were a lack of suitably qualified applicants (77.8 per cent. of authorities had experienced difficulties), applicants lacking relevant experience (68.1 per cent.), and inadequate pay (63.9 per cent.). Other commonly cited reasons were competition from private sector employers (47.2 per cent.), competition from other local authorities (44.4 per cent.) and competition from other public sector employers (31.9 per cent.).

The findings of the survey together with three workshops with local authorities have informed work on developing capacity for local authorities on flood risk management. DEFRA is currently undertaking a scoping study on broad local authority capacity building options and this will report in July 2009. We are also working closely with the Environment Agency, Local Government Association and relevant sector skills councils to develop skills availability in the wider market place and links to education.

Housing: Insulation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* lofts and *(b)* cavities were insulated through the Decent Homes programme in each of the last three years. [277823]

John Healey: At the end of each financial year local authorities complete statistical returns on the number of dwellings that have received insulation measures but these figures are not broken down by type.

	Number of local authority dwellings receiving insulation works by year
2005-06	89,817
2006-07	81,563
2007-08	64,984

Source:
Data from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix.

The Department does not collect data on insulation works by registered social landlords.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether those diagnosed with myasthenia gravis are eligible to participate in the Blue Badge parking scheme; and if he will make a statement. [278653]

Paul Clark: In order to qualify for a Blue Badge a person needs to meet one of the eligibility criteria prescribed in the regulations that govern the Blue Badge Scheme.

One of the key criteria to qualify for a badge under these regulations is that a person has a permanent and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking. People diagnosed with myasthenia gravis will therefore only be eligible for a badge if their walking ability is affected to the required extent, or if they meet one of the automatic eligibility criteria, such as being in receipt of the Higher Rate of the Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance.

Crossrail Line: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport in what year he estimates his Department's proportion of funding for Crossrail will be fully drawn down. [278574]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* Crossrail is due to commence operations in 2017, and the Department for Transport's committed funding contribution to Crossrail will be fully drawn down in 2016.

Driving Tests: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average waiting time was for a driving test for applicants in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [278395]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The average waiting time in weeks for a driving test in the West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years was:

	Bike	*Car*	*Voc*[1]
Chelmsford			
2004-05	4.3	13.4	5.7
2005-06	3.9	9.4	3.5
2006-07	4.1	7.7	1.7
2007-08	4.3	6.6	1.8
2008-09	6.0	6.7	1.4

(b) The average waiting time for a driving test at each test centre in Essex in each of the last five years was:

	Bike	*Car*	*Voc*[1]
Essex			
2004-05	4.1	10.9	5.7
2005-06	3.2	8.3	2.5
2006-07	3.4	6.6	1.7
2007-08	3.2	5.9	1.8
2008-09	4.6	7.2	1.4

[1] Voc = Lorry/Bus.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding will be provided for Highways Agency major road schemes in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12, *(d)* 2012-13 and *(e)* 2013-14; and what such schemes will be funded in each of those years. [278575]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 355, and to the Department for Transport's publication "British Transport Infrastructure Motorway and Major Trunk Roads" copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House. It is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/motorways

The publication sets out a programme of investment on national major road schemes of up to £6 billion for the period up to 2015 and which will be carried out by the Highways Agency. The schemes are listed in the publication.

The funding is in addition to the £3 billion allocated to strategic regional roads before 2015-16 through the Regional Funding Allocation process. Regions have recently provided an updated programme of priorities and spend on these and we are currently considering their advice. Decisions are expected in the summer.

For 2009-10 the Highways Agency has an indicative budget of £0.9 billion for capital expenditure on national and regional major road schemes. Budgets for future years will be settled annually and will depend on decisions and progress made on individual schemes.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the cost *(a)* in total, *(b)* per head and *(c)* per job of each of her Department's employment programmes in (i) pilot and (ii) full form in each year from 2008 to 2015. [266109]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the relevant planned expenditure for the financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11 inclusive. Figures for 2008-09 represent estimated outturn—actual expenditure will be published in the Departmental Report later this year. Estimates have not been made beyond the current Spending Review period, so no figures are available for years from 2011 to 2015. Information per head and per job is not available.

£ million

	Estimated outturn	*Budgets*	
Programme	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Support for long-term unemployed	553	845	1,214
Additional support at six months	—	145	216
Young persons guarantee and future jobs fund	—	250	838
Lone parents and families	30	34	63
Support for disabled people	512	533	567
Other employment programmes	207	184	202
Total	1,302	1,991	3,099

Notes:
1. Other Employment programmes covers categories of provision with local or skills drivers.
2. 2008-09 estimated outturn is subject to audit.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 572-74W, on Jobcentre Plus: recruitment, how many of the 6,000 extra staff to be recruited by Jobcentre Plus will be working as personal advisers; and how many of these will be recruited on *(a)* part-time and *(b)* temporary contracts. [261988]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question on how many of the 6,000 extra staff to be recruited by Jobcentre Plus will be working as personal advisers; and how many of these will be recruited on (a) part-time and (b) temporary contracts. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

In line with the recent Budget announcements, Jobcentre Plus will be able to recruit up to 10,000 more staff. This is on top of the 6,000 new staff already announced in pre-Budget report. From October 2008 until the end of April 2009 Jobcentre Plus has recruited over 6,000 new staff.

All of these new people will be employed on customer-facing services. More than half of these will be personal advisers with the rest in customer intervention and support roles within our customer service operations.

It is not possible to estimate at this stage how many recruits will be part-time but it is envisaged that most of them will be recruited into fixed term appointments.

In addition to external recruits, we aim to absorb some surplus people from other Government Departments on a permanent basis.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her most recent estimate is of the level of benefit fraud. [272476]

Jim Knight: The latest DWP estimates of fraud are contained in the DWP publication "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System October 2007 to September 2008", copies of which are available in the House of Commons Library.

Social Security Benefits: Myasthenia Gravis

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to which benefits those diagnosed with myasthenia gravis are entitled; and if she will make a statement. [278652]

Jonathan Shaw: Myasthenia gravis does not, in its own right, confer or deny entitlement to any benefit. People diagnosed with myasthenia gravis are entitled to the full range of benefits as long as they fulfil that particular benefit's entitlement conditions.

Unemployed: Social Security Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to her Department's press release of 12 January 2009 on guaranteed extra help for people unemployed for six months, how much and what proportion of the £0.5 billion required to fund the package will be provided by her Department. [260066]

Jim Knight: The pre-Budget report made available to DWP an additional £1.3 billion of funding which will ensure that over the next two years, through Jobcentre Plus and our private and voluntary providers, we not only maintain, but increase, the support we offer.

The proposals announced on 12 January 2009 pledged £0.5 billion over two years from April 2009 to guarantee more support to people unemployed for six months or more by providing incentives for firms to hire, access to help in setting up a business, extra funding for training and opportunities for work-focused volunteering.

The costs attributable to the elements sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions are estimated at around £400 million over the next two years, with the costs attributable to the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills estimated at around £83 million. Of the £400 million, HM Treasury released an additional £295 million and the Department will fund the remainder from efficiencies and the Department's VAT windfall.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

1 Carlton Gardens

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects negotiations with the Crown Estates Commissioners on his Department's lease on 1 Carlton Gardens to be completed. [278715]

Chris Bryant: We expect negotiations to be completed by December 2009.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278736]

Chris Bryant: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of the Government. The Security Policy Framework and the Data Handling Report produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

In line with Cabinet Office guidance details are not provided to avoid revealing the identity of individuals and on the grounds of confidentiality.

G8

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Italian counterpart on when *(a)* the agenda and *(b)* supporting papers for the G8 Summit in July 2009 will become available. [278001]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed the agenda for the 2009 G8 summit with Prime Minister Berlusconi during his visit to Rome on 19 February 2009.

The G8 presidency is responsible for hosting and organising preparatory meetings in the lead up to the summit and also the circulation of summit-related papers. In advance of the summit, the Italian presidency has hosted several preparatory meetings, details of which are available at:

www.g8italia2009.it

We are not expecting the summit agenda and summit statements to be finalised until nearer the time of the G8 summit.

Middle East: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 381W, to which organisations in Israel and Palestine his Department has provided support for promoting women's roles in political processes; how much financial support each has received; and what other kinds of support his Department has provided. [275956]

Caroline Flint: In 2008-09, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provided £7,050 for a project implemented by the Itach Maaki, a women's legal rights centre in the Negev.

Between 2005 and 2007, the FCO also spent £329,600 (from the Global Opportunities Fund) on a project run by the Civic Forum Institute to train newly elected women in Palestinian local councils.

Somali: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on steps to disrupt and dismantle pirate bases on the Somali coast; and if he will make a statement. [278632]

David Miliband: The UK seeks to deter, disrupt and suppress pirate activity on the high seas through participation in two international counter piracy operations, Operation ATALANTA and Combined Task Force 151. We are also working with international partners through the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia on military coordination, with the shipping industry, Somali information strategies, and regional capability development.

It is clear, however, that the solution to Somali piracy lies on land. The UK is engaging with partners to tackle the root causes of piracy, particularly instability and insecurity in Somalia, through the provision of humanitarian, security and development assistance. We will continue to work with regional partners and the wider international community on building regional capabilities to combat effectively all aspects of piracy.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the detention of Dr S. T. Rajah, T. Sathiyamoorthy and V. Shanmugarajah in Sri Lanka; and if he will make representations on their detention to his Sri Lankan counterpart. [277486]

David Miliband: We are aware of the reports of the detention of these three doctors and are following their case closely. I discussed this with Foreign Minister Bollegama on 5 June 2009 and our high commissioner to Colombo has made representations to the Sri Lankan Government on their behalf.

JUSTICE

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [278247]

Mr. Straw: I attended the regional Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. £132—for my return travel by train from Oxenholme Station to Glasgow Central station. There was no further departmental expenditure by the Ministry of Justice in relation to the meeting.

Commonhold

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many commonhold residential developments in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales have been recorded by the Land Registry since commonhold ownership was introduced. [278364]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry's records show that, as of 3 June 2009, there were

(a) 12 commonhold residential developments comprising 97 units, of which 79 units have been registered in the name of individual unit holders in England; and

(b) one commonhold residential development, comprising 30 units, of which 18 units have been registered in the name of individual unit holders in Wales.

Crimes of Violence: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of those offenders sentenced for violence against the person or sexual offences received *(a)* a custodial sentence and *(b)* a non-custodial sentence or other disposal in each of the last two years. [278461]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Number and percentage of offenders sentenced for violence against the person or sexual offences receiving custodial and non-custodial sentences, 2000-07

	2008		*2007*	
	Offenders	*Percentage of offenders*	*Offenders*	*Percentage of offenders*
Violence against the person				
Custodial sentences:				
Immediate custody	12,354	29.5	12,535	29.8
Suspended sentence	5,569	13.3	7,167	17.0
Non-custodial sentences	23,982	57.2	22,377	53.2
Total number sentenced	41,906	100	42,079	100
Sexual offences				
Custodial sentences:				
Immediate custody	2,808	569	2.810	55.6
Suspended sentence	296	60	439	8.7

Number and percentage of offenders sentenced for violence against the person or sexual offences receiving custodial and non-custodial sentences, 2000-07

	2008		2007	
	Offenders	*Percentage of offenders*	*Offenders*	*Percentage of offenders*
Non-custodial sentences	1,828	37.1	1,805	35.7
Total number sentenced	4,932	100	5,054	100

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

These figures can all be found in table 1.2 of Sentencing Statistics 2007 available at the following link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm

These data are based on the principal offence. Where an offender has been sentenced for more than one offence it is the one for which the heaviest sentence was imposed, where the same sentence has been imposed for more than one offence the principal offence is the one for which the statutory maximum is most severe.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278737]

Mr. Wills: In the year ending 30 April 2009 the Ministry of Justice formally reported two personal data related incidents to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

In each instance the ICO was notified of the circumstances of the incident, the number of people affected, the nature of the data involved and the investigations being undertaken.

The number of individuals potentially affected by the two incidents were 89 and 1,500.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what activities his Department determines fall within the definition of developing policies for the purposes of administering the policy development grant. [278354]

Mr. Wills: Under the terms of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA), policy development grants are intended to assist registered political parties (i.e. those who have at least two Members of the House of Commons who have made and subscribed the parliamentary oath) with the development of policies for inclusion in any election manifesto for relevant elections. The administration of the policy development grant scheme is a matter for the Electoral Commission, not the Government. The Commission has a duty to keep under review the terms of the scheme and make recommendations to the Secretary of State for change as it considers appropriate.

Elections: Proof of Identity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable his Department has established for introducing the requirement for signatures for the issuing of ballot papers in polling stations. [278362]

Mr. Wills: The Government continue to consider how this measure could most effectively be implemented, including timing issues. We will need to ensure that any approach to this issue is aligned with other reforms to the registration and electoral processes.

Firearms: Sentencing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 620W, on firearms: sentencing, how many people were convicted for firearms offences for which a mandatory minimum sentence was applicable in each year since 2004. [278425]

Mr. Straw: The available information is shown as follows. The table shows the number of persons, aged over 18 at the point of sentencing, sentenced for firearms offences for which the mandatory minimum is applicable. The number of offenders sentenced has been supplied in lieu of the number convicted. Lags in time between conviction and sentencing mean that the numbers convicted and sentenced in a year will not always match. Offenders aged under 18 at the time of the offence are not eligible for the five-year mandatory minimum, while the table shows offenders aged over 18 at the point of sentence they may have been under 18 when the offence was committed in which case the five-year minimum would not have been applicable.

Persons sentenced for firearms offences liable for five years minimum custodial sentence as prescribed by the Criminal Justice Act 2003[1], 2004-07

	Number of persons sentenced for whom mandatory minimum may apply[2]
2004[3]	687
2005	353
2006	266
2007	248

[1] Offences under Firearms Act 1968 of possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition, or possessing or distributing firearms disguised as other object.

[2] Only offenders aged over 18 at the point of sentencing have been included. Five years is the mandatory minimum for persons aged over 18 at time of offence and for offences taking place after 26 January 2004.

[3] The mandatory minimum is only applicable for offences that occurred on or after 26 January 2004. Many of the persons dealt with in 2004 will have committed their offences prior to the mandatory minimum sentences being introduced.

Notes:
1. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offences elected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

The Criminal Justice Act 2003 prescribed mandatory minimum custodial sentences for the offences of: possessing or distributing prohibited firearms or ammunition and possessing or distributing firearms disguised as other objects where the offences were committed on or after 26 January 2004.

The minimum sentence it set was three years where the offender was aged between 16 and 18 at the time of the offence and five years for offenders aged over 18 at the time of the offence.

Data held by the Ministry of Justice cannot determine the date the offence took place or the age of the offender at the time of the offence rather it is the date the sentence was passed and the age of the offender at the time of sentencing that is held. It is not possible to separately identify those cases that occurred prior to 26 January 2004.

Judiciary: Sick Leave

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many members of the judiciary have been *(a)* suspended on full pay and *(b)* on sick pay for over 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278017]

Mr. Straw: There is one member of the judiciary that has been suspended on full pay and four on sick pay for over 12 months.

Land Registry: Complaints

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 969-70W, on the Land Registry: complaints, what consideration he has given to extending the remit of the Office of the Independent Complaints Reviewer to complaints relating to errors made by local Land Registry offices. [277961]

Mr. Wills: Further to my answer on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 969-70W, the Government do not believe there is a need to extend the remit of the Office of the Independent Complaints Reviewer (ICR).

The ICR's current remit is wide ranging and includes the ability to investigate complaints about any error made by the Land Registry, whether procedural or substantive. As set out in my previous answer, the exception to this is where a complainant refers to a decision on land registration not related to maladministration, such as delay or loss, where the decision can only be considered judicially. For example, where an error created a substantive right for a third party, such as an incorrect name being entered as a registered proprietor of a property leading to the individual named becoming the legal owner of the property, this would require alteration of the register by either the Court or the Registrar, exercising the powers conferred on them by schedule 4 of the Land Registration Act 2002.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints have been received by *(a)* HM Land Registry and *(b)* local Land Registry offices regarding (i) land registration decisions and (ii) the way in which land registration decisions were reached in each of the last three years. [277962]

Mr. Wills: 30 complaints relating to land registration decisions were received by Land Registry head office in the year from April 2008 to March 2009, and 163 were received by local Land Registry offices in the same period. The data available do not differentiate between land registration decisions and the way in which decisions were reached.

Land Registry's customer complaints categorisation changed in April 2008. In previous years complaints relating to Land Registry decisions and the way they were reached would have been logged under two separate categories, which were "errors on registration made by HMLR", and "contentious business". Therefore the figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 given as follows include other complaints.

	(a) Head office	*(b) Local*
Contentious Business		
2006-07	3	136
2007-08	8	114
Errors on Registration by HMLR		
2006-07	0	345
2007-08	0	238

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judicial reviews resulted from complaints relating to errors made by local Land Registry offices in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [277964]

Mr. Wills: According to Land Registry records, there was one judicial review case following complaints relating to errors made by Land Registry offices in the period from April 2008 to March 2009. This case has not yet been concluded.

Magistrates

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps have been taken to increase the number of magistrates. [278100]

Mr. Straw: No steps are being undertaken to increase the number of magistrates. Recruitment is being undertaken only to maintain levels to those forecast and to manage the workload.

Requirements for numbers on the bench are determined locally taking into account projected retirements, possible resignations, average sitting days, bench make-up, local workload data, resources and the use of District Judges (magistrates courts).

Parkhurst Prison

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken in response to the recent report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons on HM Prison Parkhurst. [278328]

Mr. Straw: As with all HM chief inspector of prisons reports an action plan responding to each of the recommendations in the report will be submitted to Ministers and the chief inspector.

Steps are being taken to address the prison's poor industrial relations and deliver an agenda for change, focusing on the improved treatment of offenders. Work is under way to make Parkhurst a safer and more decent environment, with a new safer custody group overseeing initiatives covering suicide prevention, violence reduction and diversity, including the treatment of disabled prisoners.

Parole

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases the Parole Board considered in 2007-08; how many and what proportion of offenders in such cases were granted oral hearings; and how many such offenders were granted parole. [278460]

Mr. Straw: In 2007-08 the Parole Board considered a total of 31,172 cases. 8 per cent. were considered by oral hearing, which equates to 2,072 cases. Of those a total of 16 per cent. of offenders were recommended for release.

Prisons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average elapsed between prisoners' cells being unlocked in the morning and prisoners being returned to their cells in the evening in each month of the last two years. [278367]

Mr. Straw: The figures requested are set out in the following table:

Monthly average time unlocked

	Hours per prisoner per day
2007	
April	10.20
May	10.16
June	10.19
July	10.27
August	10.08
September	10.21
October	10.21
November	10.19
December	10.08
2008	
January	10.15
February	10.20
March	10.13
April	9.79
May	9.65
June	9.73
July	9.58
August	9.46
September	9.57
October	9.59
November	9.56
December	9.32
2009	
January	9.57
February	9.50
March	9.52

Note:
The methodology for recording time unlocked for week days was revised for the financial year 2008-09, resulting in a marginal reduction in the reported figures from April 2008 onwards.

Prisons: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons in London he has visited since 2007. [278101]

Mr. Straw: I have visited a number of prisons, probation areas and courts during my time as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice. Since June 2007, I have visited four of the nine establishments in Greater London: HMP Belmarsh on 11 July 2007; HMP Wandsworth on 31 January 2008; HMP Brixton on 25 February 2008; and HMP Highdown on 19 March 2008. I am planning to visit HMP Bronzefield in the near future.

Probation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were referred to multi-agency public protection panels in the Probation Service in each of the last five financial years. [278616]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the total number of multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) eligible offenders living in the community in England and Wales. The table also shows the number of eligible offenders who were managed at the higher MAPPA levels and who were considered by multi-agency public protection panels. Cases are referred to level 2 where the involvement of several agencies will be required to implement or monitor the risk management plan and to level 3 where more senior oversight is additionally required. Cases can be referred by any agency but the identity of the referring agency is not recorded. These data are taken from the MAPPA Annual reports which are required of the MAPPA Responsible Authority (police, prison and probation services acting jointly) in each of the 42 areas of England and Wales.

England and Wales	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total MAPPA eligible offenders	39,492	44,592	47,588	48,469	50,212
Level 2	[1]—	11,288	12,421	14,042	11,734
Level 3	2,152	1,478	1,267	1,249	1,072

[1] Not collected.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation offices have closed in each of the last five years. [278369]

Mr. Straw: Information on the number of probation offices closed in each of the last five years is not held or recorded centrally. To obtain this information could be achieved only at disproportionate cost because it would entail gathering information from archived files and checking with individual probation areas.

Probation: Wales

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in jobs in the probation service in the South Wales Probation Area on service delivery. [277306]

Maria Eagle: The Director of Offender Management in Wales (DOM) is responsible for ensuring that South Wales Probation Trust delivers the required services with the available resources. This is managed through an agreed contract between both parties.

The management of the Probation Trust's resources to deliver services rests with its management team and its board members. There is a close working relationship between the DOM and the Probation Trust to achieve this, which ensures that financial planning assumptions are fully taken into account in the Probation Trust's development and delivery of services. This would involve the best value use and re-investment of resources toward front line services to ensure quality of delivery is maintained.

Restorative Justice

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have appealed against orders requiring them to take part in high-visibility community payback schemes. [278104]

Maria Eagle: There have been no appeals against community or suspended sentence orders on the grounds that offenders are required to undertake their community payback sentences on high visibility work projects.

Suicide

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received in support of decriminalising the offence of assisting suicide; and if he will make a statement. [278244]

Maria Eagle: Between 14 January 2009, when the Coroners and Justice Bill was introduced, and 4 June 2009, we received 177 letters, directly or through their Members of Parliament, from people who support decriminalising the offence of assisting suicide in certain circumstances and had one meeting with the chief executive of the Dignity in Dying organisation. We also received 76 letters from people who oppose such a change in the law.

Torture: Inspections

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 56WS, on Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, which bodies he has designated for the regular inspection of military barracks, training establishments and places of detention *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas to satisfy the requirements of the Convention; and what plans he has for the designation of additional bodies. [278378]

Mr. Wills: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons inspects the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester at the invitation of the Ministry of Defence. I have asked officials from my Department to work with the Ministry of Defence to look at ways of ensuring that inspection of all other service custody within the UK is compliant with the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), and that all service custody facilities in the UK are subject to inspection by the UK National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). With regard to inspection of any places of detention overseas, the Government's position is that the UN Convention Against Torture and the OPCAT do not apply extra-territorially.

OPCAT requires that the NPM should be functionally independent of Government. The addition of inspection bodies to the NPM will be a matter for discussion between Government and the NPM. If it is necessary to add new inspection bodies to the NPM, or if bodies within the NPM are restructured or renamed, the Government will notify Parliament accordingly.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling: Licensing

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was collected in fees for *(a)* junior concession, *(b)* senior concession, *(c)* disabled concession and *(d)* full season rod licences in each year since 1997. [276782]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table indicates the amount collected for full, senior, disabled and junior rod licences issued by the Environment Agency (EA) since 1999. Prior to this, the EA used different systems to store rod licence information. Such information is, therefore, not available in the categories required.

Trout, coarse and salmon

£

	Full	*Senior*	*Disabled*	*Junior*
1999	11,036,112.00	781,906.50	495,892.50	770,596.50
2000	10,986,815.00	767,393.50	507,717.00	753,625.50
2001	12,338,110.00	931,398.50	604,887.50	588,391.50
2002	12,279,447.00	1,024,867.50	638,590.50	589,615.00
2003	14,031,602.00	1,085,222.00	719,087.50	638,041.50
2004	15,294,477.00	1,225,136.50	788,287.50	652,563.00
2005	16,111,736.00	1,349,604.75	464,109.25	602,566.25
2006	16,674,391.00	1,462,821.50	414,470.00	612,835.00
2007	16,527,745.50	1,521,393.75	469,633.50	631,788.25
2008	20,644,108.00	2,082,324.50	902,791.00	647,505.00

Source:
The Environment Agency's rod licence database.

Civil Service Agencies: Boats

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many ships and boats have been *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased and *(c)* hired by or on behalf of (i) the Marine and Fisheries Agency, (ii) the Environment Agency, (iii) Natural England, (iv) the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, (v) the Sea Fisheries Committees and (vi) the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science in each of the last three financial years; how many operational days each of those vessels has spent at sea at each agency's expense in that period; and what expenditure each agency incurred on purchasing, leasing and hiring such vessels in each such year. [277362]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) does not own any vessels, but it does have an agreement with the Royal Navy for the provision of ships and personnel for fishery protection duties.

Royal Navy Fishery Protection Vessels

	Class of ship	*Total number of operational days at sea*	*Number of vessels available for use*	*Cost (£000)*
2006-07	River	620	3	
	Hunt	225	4	
	Total days	845	—	6,100
2007-08	River	609	3	
	Hunt	187	3	
	Total days	796	—	6,036
2008-09	River	780	3	
	Hunt	0	—	
	Total days	780	—	3,916

Additionally the MFA hire inshore vessels for specific fisheries enforcement work, but information on number of operational days at sea is not readily available.

Hire of inshore vessels

	£
2006-07	942.50
2007-08	2,985.00
2008-09	2,971.00

The Environment Agency (EA) currently owns 41 marine vessels to fulfil its statutory duties primarily for marine environmental monitoring and fisheries enforcement. Four of these vessels are 16 m coastal survey vessels focusing on environmental monitoring. The other vessels are smaller, ranging in size from 5-12 m, with duties differing across fisheries enforcement, flood defence inspections and harbour duties as well as environmental monitoring. The EA also hired eight vessels for data collection activities for flood and coastal risk management and marine monitoring in 2008-09 some of which is expected to continue in 2009-10. The marine vessel fleet has been subject to a detailed review over the last two years. The outcome of the review will lead to a rationalisation of this fleet from 41 to 25 vessels over the next three years to improve efficiency and increase utilisation of the remaining assets.

The number of vessels, operational days and expenditure from 2006-09 is set out in the table:

	Number of operational days	*Expenditure (£000)*	*Number of vessels owned*	*Number of vessels hired*
2006-07	2,423	1,285	44	3
2007-08	2,551	1,371	42	5
2008-09	2,426	1,622	46	8

Source:
EA's Marine Monitoring and Vessel Review Project 2009

Natural England uses vessels for a range of activities including: site monitoring; Environmental Impact Assessment (e.g. as a result of the Napoli incident); intertidal and sub-tidal surveys (e.g. sediment and invertebrate surveys in The Wash); compliance with Health and Safety legislation and policy (e.g. diving operations); cetacean surveys (Lyme Bay); the Lundy no-take zone monitoring program (including patrols and enforcement); servicing our National Nature Reserves (NNRs); and a range of formal visits (politicians, journalists and Natural England officials) to specific sites.

Natural England owns a number of small vessels (no ships) including:

Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) that services Lundy Island Marine Nature Reserve;

One mud pump, one riverboat, workboats, one traditional reed lighter, trailboats, one floating pontoon and inflatable boats which are all used to service a number of NNRs and related work on the Broads.

In addition, the organisation owns a small number of dinghies which are used on some of their NNRs.

The following table shows the number of vessel days from vessels either owned, leased and hired by, or on behalf of, Natural England for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, together with estimations of cost.

	Owned (days)	*Leased*	*Hired by or on behalf of (days)*	*Total (days)*	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	26	n/a	33	59	24,200
2007-08	24	n/a	119	143	212,900
2008-09	24	n/a	67	91	31,730
Total	74	0	219	293	268,830

Not all the data and information requested are available. In some cases, the number of days at sea and the cost of vessel trips is often included in the set cost of the contract, so there is no specific record other than an overall cost. In addition, Natural England does not hold data on the number of individual boats that are hired over time.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has neither owned nor leased any ships or boats in the last three financial years. Details of ships and boats hired by, or on behalf of, the JNCC in the last three financial years are listed in the table which includes:

1. Vessels hired directly by JNCC;
2. Vessels hired on JNCC's behalf by DEFRA;
3. Vessels hired by JNCC but costs recovered from DEFRA through a memorandum of understanding between both parties.

Financial year	*Ships hired by or on behalf of the JNCC*	*Number of operational days spent at sea*	*Expenditure incurred by hiring such vessels (£)*
2006-07	3	41	[1]333,600
2007-08	2	30	[1]310,280
2008-09	1	10	[1]111,862

[1] As a consequence of the different hiring models noted above, there may be an overlap of up to £250,000 between JNCC's supplied costs and those supplied by CEFAS.

Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) are local authority committees, and DEFRA's role in relation to the operation of SFCs is restricted generally to the appointment of some of the members of each Committee and to the confirmation of SFC byelaws. Information supplied by the Association of Sea Fisheries Committees on behalf of the SFCs is set out as follows. Further information about the SFCs is available in their annual reports or in papers prepared for the Committees' meetings and available under the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

Sea Fisheries Committee	*Vessels owned*			*Vessels leased*			*Operational sea days*			*Expenditure on purchasing (£)*			*Expenditure on leasing (£)*		
	06-07	*07-08*	*08-09*	*06-07*	*07-08*	*08-09*	*06-07*	*07-08*	*08-09*	*06-07*	*07-08*	*08-09*	*06-07*	*07-08*	*08-09*
Cornwall	2	3	3	—	—	—	171	158	214	—	21,000	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	3	3	3	1	1	1	145	139	163	—	—	—	[1]1,075	[1]1,075	[1]1,075
Devon	4	4	4	—	—	—	[2]185	[2]162	[2]156	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern	3	3	3	—	—	—	123	112	[3]80	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kent and Essex	2	2	2	—	—	—	159	144	156	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumberland	3	3	3	—	—	—	120	101	118	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Eastern	3	3	3	—	—	—	[2]140	[2,4]84	[2,5]117	—	[5]1.5m	—	—	—	—
North Western and North Wales	6	6	6	—	—	—	[2]134	[2]68	[2]124	7,000	—	17,400	—	—	—
South Wales	2	2	2	—	—	—	88	125	108	—	35,700	36,000	—	—	—
Southern	5	5	4	—	—	—	129	97	106	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	2	2	2	1	1	1	121	97	106	—	—	—	116,000	116,000	116,000
Isles of Scilly[6]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] This is a secondary lease on "Solway Protector".

[2] Patrol numbers which may include periods of more than one day at sea.

[3] One boat is laid up following theft of engine.

[4] "North Eastern Guardian II" was sold out of service mid year.

[5] "North Eastern Guardian III" was commissioned in July 2008.

[6] Isles of Scilly has no dedicated vessels. This Committee utilises the Islands' harbour master launches or the patrol services of the Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee.

Notes:

1. No ships or boats have been hired in the period for which information was requested.
2. Enforcement at sea takes place on an intelligence led basis and in any case is subject to weather conditions. There are days when it is neither necessary nor prudent as judged against the capabilities of the ships or boats available to the Sea Fisheries Committees, to take them to sea. Theoretical availability is also lost to planned and to short notice maintenance needs as well as restricted by crew availability. Crew members may, for example, be required in court to give prosecution evidence or to do other higher priority work.

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) owns and operates one 73 m sea-going research vessel the "Cefas Endeavour". The "Cefas Endeavour" is also made available to other DEFRA partners such as JNCC and Natural England to enable them to deliver their work programmes. CEFAS also hires other vessels on a charter basis. The figures provided include charters of vessels under the Fisheries Science Partnership.

The number of vessels, operational days and expenditure is set out in the table:

	Owned vessels		*Charter vessels*		
	Number	*Op. days*	*Number*	*Op. days*	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2006-07	1	258	42	411	7.0
2007-08	1	275	60	678	8.9
2008-09	1	273	55	684	9.2

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on furniture by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last five years. [276270]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the core Department's financial system records the following expenditure on furniture and all related services (fitting, movement, etc.) by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last five years:

		£
	DEFRA	*Natural England*
2004-05	2,712,776	0
2005-06	1,596,639	0
2006-07	635,811	440
2007-08	1,687,043	645,611
2008-09	594,067	111,395

Further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277412]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of employment actions brought against the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in each of the last three years are as follows:

2006-07: 24

2007-08: 19

2008-09: 11

They were brought under the followings categories:

2006-07

Unfair/wrongful dismissal: 21

Disability discrimination: two

Racial discrimination: one

2007-08

Unfair/wrongful dismissal: 17

Age discrimination: one

Sex discrimination: one

2008-09

Unfair/wrongful dismissal: three

Disability discrimination: three

Age discrimination: two

Sex discrimination: one

Redundancy: one

Terms of employment: one

The number contested by his Department at an Employment Tribunal is:

2006-07: of 24 cases in total 16 were contested at an ET

2007-08: of 19 cases in total five were contested at an ET

2008-09: of 11 cases in total one was contested at an ET

Fisheries

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* experience and *(b)* professional knowledge the Chairman of the sustainable access to inshore fisheries project has of the matters which fall within the project's remit; and if he will make a statement. [277983]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have recently appointed Alan Riddell as the chair of the new Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries (SAIF) Advisory Group. Alan has a long history of leading regional development and community sustainability. These are issues which are inextricably linked to what we are trying to achieve through SAIF; a thriving and sustainable fishing industry in the future.

Alan has no prior connections to the fishing industry and this enables him to chair the group with complete independence. This provides scope for fresh thinking and new and innovative solutions to problems which have affected the inshore fleet for a number of years. He will have access to fishing expertise both within the advisory group, which incorporates a number of fishermen and industry experts, and from outside the group in terms of access to our wide network of stakeholders.

I look forward to working closely with him over the coming months.

Fisheries: Finance

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget for fisheries management his Department and its predecessor set for each year since 1997; and what proportion of the budget was spent on *(a)* research, *(b)* administration and *(c)* enforcement in each such year. [276708]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the following table is a summary of the annual spend for fisheries management and the proportion spent on research, enforcement and associated administration.

Fisheries management, enforcement and associated administration is the responsibility of the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA), which was created on 1 October 2005. The figures for 2004-05 are a broad estimate from the comparative figures in the annual report and accounts.

Research expenditure on sustainable marine fisheries and conservation of salmon and freshwater fish stocks is incurred within the DEFRA Marine Programme. In 2008-09 a further £11 million was allocated to operational science, which covered:

stock assessment surveys;

biological sampling;

discard monitoring;

fisheries science partnership; and

management advice.

		Spend (percentage)		
	Total spend (£ million)	*Research*	*Enforcement*	*Administration*
2008-09	19.9	20	61	19
2007-08	19.8	21	62	17
2006-07	19.7	21	62	17
2005-06	18.5	20	66	14
2004-05	20.0	28	61	11

The administration figures include the totality of corporate and finance support for the MFA. It is not possible to meaningfully apportion this between the various activities of the agency.

Information for prior years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Flood and Water Management Bill (Draft)

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish his response to his Department's consultation on the draft Flood and Water Management Bill. [277982]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We published the draft Bill on 21 April. The public consultation period closes on 24 July and we hope that the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee will be able to report on its pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill before the summer recess. The Government would then intend to respond to both exercises when the House returns in the autumn.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the *(a)* target completion date and *(b)* actual completion date was for each major flood defence project since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [277397]

(2) what the *(a)* pre-construction budget and *(b)* outturn cost of each major flood defence project has been since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [277398]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's National Capital Programme Management Service has been in operation since April 2000. In the earlier years of this operation flood defence capital programmes were administered by regions which have since been superseded. Information is not therefore available for years prior to 2004-05.

A table has been placed in the Library of the House showing the required information from 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of his Department's performance in facilitating information sharing in respect of flooding between responders through local resilience forums. [277654]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government encourage work to facilitate the sharing of information between responders through Local Resilience Forums and looks to Category 1 and 2 responders to ensure that they fulfil their duties in this respect under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) and its regulations.

The Government are reviewing how to improve the effectiveness of the duties under the CCA, including whether the existing information sharing duty is sufficient or should be strengthened.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in formulating guidance for regulators to encourage those building critical infrastructure to incorporate high levels of resilience to flooding; and when he expects such guidance to be published. [277656]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Natural Hazards Team, established in the Cabinet Office in May 2009, is working with Lead Government Departments and economic regulators to encourage resilience building by critical infrastructure owners. Guidance for regulators is expected to be published in summer 2009.

Floods: Hospitals

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the number of hospital buildings in high flood-risk areas; and what recent estimate he has made of the number of such buildings which are flood-resistant or resilient. [277402]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A national assessment of the number of hospitals located in areas at risk from flooding has been completed as part of the Environment Agency's recent National Flood Risk Assessment.

As part of the Department of Health's commitment to UK resilience, the Department has completed an assessment of NHS assets to establish their vulnerability to a wide range of disruptive challenges—including flooding. This work is an on-going process as part of the civil resilience agenda under the CONTEST strategy.

Inland Waterways

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date in 2010 he expects Waterways for Tomorrow to be published; and for what reasons the document is not to be published in 2009. [277811]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We will publish the update to "Waterways for Tomorrow" when it is ready following consultation later this year. We expect this to be in early 2010, which would be appropriate as it falls 10 years after "Waterways for Tomorrow" was published in 2000.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to publish the minutes of the Inter-departmental Group on Waterways. [277813]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the minutes of the Inter-Departmental Group on Waterways have been published on the DEFRA website:

www.defra.gov.uk

together with any related information that is key to its wider context.

Sewers: Private Sector

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's timetable is for the transfer of private drains and sewers to water company ownership; and if he will make a statement. [277986]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 15 December 2008 that privately owned sewers and lateral drains in England will be transferred to water and sewerage companies from 2011. The precise timetable for the transfer will be set out in the regulations that we anticipate will be consulted on later in 2009, prior to their being presented to Parliament for approval. Once Parliament has approved these regulations, the transfer will be a statutory duty for water and sewerage companies.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for sale of alcohol to a drunk person *(a)* have been brought and *(b)* resulted in conviction in each criminal justice area in each of the last five years. [275876]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* Available information on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the sale of alcohol to a drunk person, under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003, by police force area, for 2006 and 2007 (latest available) is given in table 1.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

A Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) of £80 may also be issued by the police for certain alcohol related offences such as the sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk. The numbers of persons issued with a PND for this offence, which was added to the scheme in April 2005, by police force area, from 2005 to 2007 are shown in table 2.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offence of sale of alcohol to a drunk person[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2006 to 2007[2,3,4]

Police force area	*Proceeded against*		*Found guilty*	
	2006	*2007*	*2006*	*2007*
Cheshire	—	1	—	—
Cleveland	—	1	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	2	—	—
Durham	—	1	—	1
Lancashire	1	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	—	2	—	—
Thames Valley	1	—	1	—
Total	2	7	1	1

[1] Under the Licensing Act 2003—section 141.

[2] Only those areas for which data have been recorded are included in the table.

[3] Figures given are on the principal offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 2: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a drunk person[1] under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003, by police force area, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[1,2]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	1
Bedfordshire	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	1	2
Cheshire	—	—	—
City of London	—	—	—
Cleveland	1	—	4
Cumbria	—	6	1
Derbyshire	—	1	1
Devon and Cornwall	1	1	2
Dorset	—	1	—
Durham	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	—	3	7
Hampshire	1	1	3
Hertfordshire	—	—	—
Humberside	—	—	1
Kent	2	1	4
Lancashire	4	4	6
Leicestershire	8	2	4
Lincolnshire	1	—	—
Merseyside	—	—	8
Metropolitan Police	3	7	18
Norfolk	—	—	1
Northamptonshire	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	2
North Yorkshire	—	1	—
Nottinghamshire	—	1	1
South Yorkshire	1	—	—
Staffordshire	—	4	2
Suffolk	—	—	2
Surrey	—	1	—
Sussex	7	1	2
Thames Valley	—	—	2
Warwickshire	—	—	—
West Mercia	2	—	3
West Midlands	—	1	—
West Yorkshire	1	1	1
Wiltshire	—	3	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—
North Wales	—	5	1
South Wales	—	—	1
British Transport Police	—	1	—
Total	32	47	81

[1] Sale of alcohol to a drunk person was added to the PND scheme with effect from 4 April 2005.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under 18 year olds were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* cautioned for alcohol-related offences in each criminal justice area in the last two years. [275877]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The number of persons aged 10 to 17 years cautioned for alcohol related behaviour offences in England and Wales, by police force area, in 2006 and 2007 (latest available) are given in the table. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons aged 10 to 17 years cautioned for alcohol-related offences[1] in England and Wales, by police force area, from 2006 to 2007[2,3,4]

Police force area	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	11	28
Bedfordshire	1	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—
Cheshire	14	26
City of London	2	1
Cleveland	20	18
Cumbria	52	63
Derbyshire	16	21
Devon and Cornwall	105	132
Dorset	14	18
Durham	82	86
Essex	2	—
Gloucestershire	1	2
Greater Manchester	14	24
Hampshire	39	29
Hertfordshire	4	6
Humberside	11	6
Kent	52	52
Lancashire	84	103
Leicestershire	5	3

Number of persons aged 10 to 17 years cautioned for alcohol-related offences[1] in England and Wales, by police force area, from 2006 to 2007[2,3,4]

Police force area	2006	2007
Lincolnshire	5	2
Merseyside	19	48
Metropolitan Police	7	—
Norfolk	1	2
North Yorkshire	41	29
Northamptonshire	1	—
Northumbria	314	366
Nottinghamshire	—	—
South Yorkshire	54	61
Staffordshire	21	12
Suffolk	19	12
Surrey	21	6
Sussex	45	62
Thames Valley	22	14
Warwickshire	—	—
West Mercia	40	38
West Midlands	45	49
West Yorkshire	160	198
Wiltshire	5	3
Dyfed-Powys	27	29
Gwent	76	75
North Wales	44	24
South Wales	39	16
Total	1,535	1,664

[1] Includes offences under the: Licensing Act 1872 s.12; Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc.) Act 1985 ss.1(2)(3)(4) and 1A(2)(3)(4), 2(1)(2), 5B(2)(3), 5C(3)(4), 5D(2)(3), 6(2); Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997 s. 1; Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ss.12,17,25(3)(a)(b), 25(4)(5), 32; Criminal Justice Act 1967 s.91; Licensing Act 1964 ss. 5C(5). 6, 6. 19, 28(3). 34, 36, 39(1)(2)(3)(4), 45, 48, 51(4), 53, 59(1)(a)(b), 71(4), 72, 84. 85(2), 89, 155(1)(a), 157(1)(a)(b), 157(1)(b), 159,160,(1)(a)(b), 161(1)(2), 162,163,164(1)(2), 165, 166(1)(a)(b), 167, 168A. 168(1)(2), 169A, 169B, 169C(1)(2)(3), 169E(1), 169F, 169G, 170, 171A(1), 172, 172A, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177. 178. 179A(6), 179B(5)(6), 179E(8), 179H(2), 181A(1)(2)(3), 183(1)(2)(3), 184.185,186,187(3)(4), 188.193(7) Sch.8 Appendix C s. 6, Appendix D; Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 s.1; Licensing Act 2003 ss. 33,40,41, 46, 49, 56, 57, 59, 82, 83, 93, 94, 96, 108, 109,123,127,128, 132,134. 135. 136.137,138,140,141,142,143,144,145,146, 147,147A, 148, 149(1)(3)(4)(7(a)(b), 150(1)(2), 151,152,153,156, 157, 158, 160, 161, 165, 168,179.197, Sch.8 paras 1 and 22; Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 ss. 11, 27; Late Night Refreshment Houses Act 1969 ss. 7(2), 8,9(1)(4), 10; Town Police Clauses Act 1847 ss. 35, 61; London Hackney Carriage Act 1843 s.28; Merchant Shipping Act 1995 s.101(1)(a)(b), (4) and (5); Licensing Act 1902 ss.2, 6(2)(a)(b); Similar provisions in Local Acts; Criminal Justice Act 1996 s. 6; Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 s.3 (Sch. Para. 2, 3(a)(b), 4(1)(2)(3), 5,6.7, 8(2). 9(2)); Licensing Act 1988 s. 17,18; Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, s. 19; Children and Young Persons Act 1933 s. 5.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: East of England

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders have been *(a)* imposed and *(b)* breached in each police force area in the East of England in each year since such orders were introduced. [277777]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information held by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and the number proven in court to have been breached at least once at all courts in the East of England from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2006 (latest available) is shown in the table.

Number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and the number proven in court to have been breached[1] at least once at all courts in each police force area in the East of England[2] in each year, 2000[3]-06

Police force area	2000-02[3]	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Bedfordshire						
Issued	8	16	18	40	31	113
Breached	6	6	7	15	9	43
Cambridgeshire						
Issued	5	15	26	50	31	127
Breached	4	6	12	12	15	49
Essex						
Issued	2	23	79	88	32	224
Breached	—	2	28	58	35	123
Hertfordshire						
Issued	16	17	40	73	35	181
Breached	3	5	20	24	30	82
Norfolk						
Issued	21	7	43	46	27	144
Breached	8	4	10	23	22	67
Suffolk						
Issued	9	25	78	53	35	200
Breached	1	7	21	33	23	85
East of England						
Issued	61	103	284	350	191	989
Breached	22	30	98	165	134	449

[1] ASBOs breached are counted based on the year the first breach was proven in court. Many ASBOs which are breached in a particular year will have been issued in a previous year. ASBOs can be issued in one police force area and breached in another. In this table breaches are counted on area of issue.

[2] The East of England Government office region is comprised of the following police force areas: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

[3] From 1 June 2000.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sources:
Issued: as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.
Breached: OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Crime: Firearms

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal firearm offences in respect of which legal proceedings have been completed have been committed within 100 yards of the entrance to a prison in England and Wales in each of the last 12 years for which figures are available; how many of the victims or intended victims of such offences had been visiting or were about to visit the prison in question; and if she will make a statement. [275243]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 May 2009]*: I am afraid that the information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff based at his Department's Abu Dhabi hub are allocated to reviewing visa applications from Pakistan; [272746]

(2) how many staff based at the Abu Dhabi visa hub are allocated to reviewing visa applications from Pakistan. [272990]

Alan Johnson: There are 33 entry clearance officers and nine entry clearance managers working in the hub in Abu Dhabi. They are processing work from Pakistan, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. Staff are transferable between all three work streams in the hub and are allocated duties according to workloads.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa entry clearance officers are employed at *(a)* Lahore and *(b)* Karachi; and how many were employed at each post in each of the last five years. [272750]

Alan Johnson: There are no visa sections in Karachi or Lahore. The visa section in Karachi was closed in September 2007 and work was transferred to the visa section in Islamabad at that time. At the time of closure, the visa section in Karachi employed one entry clearance manager, eight (and a half) entry clearance officers and one risk assessment officer. The visa section in Lahore closed over five years ago (shortly after 9/11).

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff are employed at the Abu Dhabi visa hub; [272989]

(2) how many staff are employed in the visa hub in Abu Dhabi. [272745]

Alan Johnson: On 12 May 2009 there are 101 staff working in the Abu Dhabi hub.

Entry Clearances: Pakistan

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications were received in *(a)* Karachi and *(b)* Lahore consulate in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [272743]

Alan Johnson: During the financial year 2008-09, the UK Visa Application Centres in Karachi and Lahore received 26,364 and 53,189 visa applications, respectively.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of visa applications from Pakistani nationals are checked for fraud by entry clearance officers at *(a)* Karachi and *(b)* Lahore. [272751]

Alan Johnson: There are no entry clearance officers posted to Karachi or Lahore. All applications submitted in Pakistan are dealt with in Islamabad, Abu Dhabi or London. Fraud checks are carried out in Islamabad on 100 per cent. of applications submitted in Pakistan.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications were *(a)* reviewed by entry clearance officers in Pakistan and *(b)* processed by the visa hub in Abu Dhabi between the entry into service of the Abu Dhabi visa hub and 1 March 2009. [272988]

Alan Johnson: All applications lodged in Pakistan are seen by an entry clearance officer based in Islamabad so that a travel document forgery check can be carried out irrespective of where the decision is being made. Between the Abu Dhabi hub coming into service on 27 October 2008 and 1 March 2009 19,995 applications have been sent to Islamabad for a decision and a total of 19,497 applications have been sent to the hub in Abu Dhabi for a decision.

European Arrest Warrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people brought to jurisdictions in the UK under the provisions of a European arrest warrant have subsequently been convicted of an offence; what the name and nationality of each offender was; for what offence each was convicted; in which court and on what date in each case; what sentence each received; and from which member state each was removed to the UK. [265787]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) (for Scotland) are the designated authorities for the receipt and transmission of European Arrest Warrants (EAWs) in the UK. In the UK, EAWs can only be issued by appropriately designated judicial authorities.

SOCA's involvement in EAW cases ceases at the point of surrender to the UK and does not include recording the outcome of criminal cases in the UK.

To retrieve this information would entail liaising with all the UK's prosecuting authorities and courts and would incur disproportionate cost.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European warrants for the arrest of *(a)* British citizens and *(b)* non-British citizens have been received from other EU member states; and how many people have been removed under such warrants since January 2008, broken down by (i) category of offence and (ii) member state of destination. [265788]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 24 March 2009]*: SOCA and COPFS (for Scotland) are the designated authorities for the receipt and transmission for European arrest warrants (EAWs) in the UK. The number of EAWs issued to the UK (excluding Scotland) since 1 January 2006 is:

	Total	
	EAWs issued to UK	EAW surrenders
2006	[1]3,298	[1]151
2007	[1]2,480	[2]320
2008	[1]3,230	[2]515
January-April 2009	[1]1,329	[2]165

[1] Several member states will issue EAWs to more than one member state if the person's exact whereabouts are not known. A large number of EAWs received by SOCA therefore turn out to have no connection with the UK.

[2] There may be occasions where logistics dictate that the surrender of a person arrested in Scotland takes place in England and is effected by SOCA.

It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down by nationality, category of offence or member state of destination. This would require a manual examination of all files and incur disproportionate cost.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European warrants for the arrest of *(a)* British citizens and *(b)* non-British citizens her Department has issued; and how many people have been removed to the UK under such warrants since January 2008, broken down by (i) category of offence and (ii) member state to which the warrant was issued. [265789]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* In 2008 SOCA transmitted 218 European arrest warrants (EAWs) to other member states and between January and April 2009, SOCA transmitted 86 EAWs.

The Home Office does not issue EAWs. They are issued by designated judicial authorities such as the Crown Prosecution Service and COPFS for Scotland. These are then transmitted by SOCA or COPFS to the relevant member state for execution.

In 2008, 96 individuals for whom SOCA had transmitted an EAW, either during 2008 or earlier were returned to the UK. Between January and April 2009 27 individuals were returned under the EAW procedure.

It is not possible from current systems to provide data broken down by nationality, category of offence or member state to which the warrant was sent. This would require a manual examination of all files and hence disproportionate cost.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many European warrants his Department has issued for the arrest of *(a)* UK nationals and *(b)* non-UK nationals who have escaped from prison; how many people have been removed to the UK as a result; with what offences they were charged; and to which member states each warrant was issued. [265844]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 24 March 2009]:* EAWs are issued by the appropriately designated judicial authority and transmitted by the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

To retrieve this information would entail liaising with all the UK's prosecuting authorities and courts and would incur disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letters to him of 20 January and 16 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regards to Mrs H Jebably. [268025]

Alan Johnson: My right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary (Jacqui Smith), wrote to my right hon. Friend on 20 April 2009.

Organised Crime: International Cooperation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Serious and Organised Crime Agency spent on work undertaken in co-operation with *(a)* Europol and *(b)* Interpol in the last period for which figures are available. [276563]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

	Spent on work undertaken (£)
(a) Europol	
Subscriptions paid in 2008-09	7,812,285
SOCA Liaison Office at Europol	595,415
Total	8,407,700
(b) Interpol	
Subscriptions paid in 2008-09	2,487,314
SOCA staff at Interpol	212,576
Total	2,699,890

These figures are subject to final audit. SOCA is the UK gateway for both Europol and Interpol and the subscription costs are for UK law enforcement as a whole.

Many SOCA operations and projects involve collaboration with Europol, Interpol and other partners, but this work is not costed separately.

Police: Surveillance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report,* column 688W, on police: surveillance, whether he has completed his consideration of the publication of a non-restricted version of the guidance on the lawful and effective use of covert techniques. [278462]

Mr. Hanson: Guidance on the Lawful and Effective Use of Covert Techniques programme, which includes an overarching guidance manual and a more recent guidance manual aimed at officers investigating local volume crime and disorder, contains details of covert techniques and as such is classified as restricted. It therefore cannot be placed in the Library.

Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received from *(a)* the Association of Electricity Producers and *(b)* Drax Power Limited on the use of powers under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. [276537]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 20 May 2009]:* The Home Office has not received recently any direct representations on this matter from the organisations the hon. Member mentions, but is aware of the issues both have raised with the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

Sexual Offences: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sex offenders have been subject to multi-agency public protection arrangements in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each of the last three years. [274244]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data on MAPPA management and on the number of registered sexual offenders in England and Wales are available in the annual published MAPPA reports

http://www.probation.justice.gov.uk/output/page30.asp

Data on MAPPA management are not broken down below area level. However, for Essex, the number of registered sexual offenders managed via MAPPA meetings between 1 April and 31 March is as follows:

	Number of registered sexual offenders
2005-06	21
2006-07	28
2007-08	72

The increase in the 2007-08 figure was due to a review of the MAPPA level of cases being managed rather than an increase in the number of sexual offenders in Essex. This is fully explained in the 2007-08 Essex MAPPA report which is available on

http://www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/files/pdf/Essex%20MAPPA%202008%20Report.pdf

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been prosecuted for offences relating to sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point. [277193]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in Essex from 2004 to 2007 (latest available) are given in the table.

Data are given in the table for Essex police force area. It is not possible to further break down data to constituency level (i.e. Castle Point) as this level of detail is not held centrally.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2003[1]*, in Essex, 2004*[2]*-07*[3,4]

	Essex police force area
	Number
2004	34
2005	49
2006	47
2007	20

[1] Includes the following statutes: sections 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8(1)(2)(3), 9(a)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(1)(a)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(2)(3), 10(1)(a)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(2)(3), 11(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(i)(ii), 12(1)(a)(b)(c)(i)(ii), 13, 14, 15, 16(1)(a)(b)(c)(e)(i)(ii)(2)(3)(4)(5),17(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(i)(ii)(2)(3)(4)(5), 18(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(i)(ii)(2)(3)(4)(5), 19(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(i)(ii)(2)(3)(4)(5), 25(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(i)(ii)(4)(a)(b)(5)(6), 26(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(i)(ii)(4)(a)(b)(5)(6), 47(1)(a)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(2), (3)(4)(a)(b)(5)(6), 48(1)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(2), 49(1)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(2), 50(1)(a)(b)(i)(ii)(2), 52, 53, 57, 58, 59;

[2] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. For example, when a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Surveillance: Disclosure of Information

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance on the management of covert human intelligence sources with any elements which would prohibit disclosure redacted. [278359]

Mr. Hanson: The existing statutory Code of Practice on Covert Human Intelligence Sources, which came into force in 2002, is a published document and copies are available in the House Library. A revised draft version of the code is included in the consultation document "Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Consolidating Orders and Codes of Practice" which was published on 17 April 2009. Copies were placed in the House Library and are also available through the Home Office website.

Theft: Bicycles

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bicycle thefts were reported in each police authority area in each year since 1997. [278299]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences of theft of a pedal cycle recorded by the police and is given in the following tables:

Table 1: Recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle, 1997

Police force area	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	5,279
Bedfordshire	1,327
Cambridgeshire	6,195
Cheshire	2,191
Cleveland	1,955
Cumbria	996
Derbyshire	2,287
Devon and Cornwall	2,176
Dorset	2,068
Durham	1,262
Dyfed-Powys	304
Essex	3,251
Gloucestershire	2,126
Greater Manchester	6,895
Gwent	840
Hampshire	6,207
Hertfordshire	1,460
Humberside	6,963
Kent	3,106
Lancashire	3,839
Leicestershire	3,424
Lincolnshire	2,142
London, City of	157
Merseyside	2,961
Metropolitan police	17,276
Norfolk	2,503
Northamptonshire	1,453
Northumbria	3,675
North Wales	1,083
North Yorkshire	2,951
Nottinghamshire	4,247
South Wales	2,464
South Yorkshire	2,811
Staffordshire	2,145

Table 1: Recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle, 1997

Police force area	*Number*
Suffolk	1,551
Surrey	1,154
Sussex	4,211
Thames Valley	6,730
Warwickshire	1,422
West Mercia	2,849
West Midlands	5,757
West Yorkshire	3,947
Wiltshire	1,452
England and Wales	139,092

Table 2: Recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1,2]

Number

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	4,730	4,289	3,698	3,555
Bedfordshire	1,241	1,206	952	870
Cambridgeshire	5,606	5,513	4,373	4,171
Cheshire	1,940	2,202	1,865	1,666
Cleveland	1,624	1,702	1,420	1,460
Cumbria	1,001	988	716	691
Derbyshire	1,900	1,755	1,529	1,505
Devon and Cornwall	2,084	2,087	1,667	1,563
Dorset	281	246	265	268
Durham	2,126	2,012	1,634	1,522
Dyfed-Powys	990	1,107	916	867
Essex	2,955	3,207	2,635	2,299
Gloucestershire	1,899	2,204	1,796	1,691
Greater Manchester	5,948	6,203	5,190	5,007
Gwent	824	803	676	557
Hampshire	5,878	5,807	4,730	4,455
Hertfordshire	1,380	1,416	1,373	1,339
Humberside	5,967	5,730	4,775	4,330
Kent	2,450	2,383	2,175	1,821
Lancashire	3,255	3,042	2,793	2,702
Leicestershire	3,050	2,762	2,323	2,132
Lincolnshire	2,174	2,318	1,879	1,750
London, City of	258	250	203	334
Merseyside	2,440	2,634	2,064	1,678
Metropolitan police	17,092	18,659	14,470	14,340
Norfolk	2,349	2,400	2,102	1,926
Northamptonshire	1,657	1,530	1,229	1,146
Northumbria	2,758	3,187	2,947	2,468
North Wales	1,100	1,130	950	896
North Yorkshire	2,948	2,600	2,175	2,442
Nottinghamshire	4,344	4,296	3,749	3,555
South Wales	2,278	2,313	1,829	1,951
South Yorkshire	2,520	2,668	2,219	1,891
Staffordshire	1,814	2,061	1,724	1,667
Suffolk	1,940	2,023	1,709	1,728
Surrey	1,193	1,189	1,388	1,301
Sussex	3,895	3,686	3,062	2,959
Thames Valley	6,787	7,992	6,000	5,346
Warwickshire	1,490	1,284	1,100	1,060
West Mercia	2,735	2,518	2,071	1,903
West Midlands	5,012	5,044	4,198	4,004
West Yorkshire	3,107	3,377	2,773	2,673
Wiltshire	1,537	1,417	1,167	1,224
England and Wales	128,557	131,240	108,509	102,713

[1] The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

[2] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle, 2002-03 to 2007-08[1, 2]

Number

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	3,090	3,043	3,713	4,131	4,311	3,818
Bedfordshire	719	898	881	1,073	965	1,000
British Transport police	2,737	2,947	3,384	4,127	4,734	4,408
Cambridgeshire	3,975	4,374	4,528	4,442	4,121	3,802

Table 3: Recorded offences of theft of a pedal cycle, 2002-03 to 2007-08[1, 2]

						Number
Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cheshire	1,551	1,746	1,565	1,731	1,795	1,558
Cleveland	1,028	1,116	1,237	1,255	1,132	1,217
Cumbria	606	802	850	862	780	802
Derbyshire	1,301	1,358	1,131	1,156	1,065	1,135
Devon and Cornwall	1,443	1,712	1,825	1,792	1,871	1,775
Dorset	1,624	1,843	1,602	1,555	1,806	1,731
Durham	726	827	815	802	815	702
Dyfed-Powys	230	330	388	308	257	295
Essex	2,100	2,462	2,775	2,875	2,676	2,625
Gloucestershire	1,588	1,653	1,322	1,577	1,516	1,345
Greater Manchester	4,598	4,220	4,198	4,731	4,597	4,679
Gwent	632	624	570	600	564	520
Hampshire	4,253	4,545	4,869	5,843	5,839	4,988
Hertfordshire	1,397	1,484	1,656	1,767	1,826	1,641
Humberside	3,736	3,777	3,195	3,281	2,978	2,894
Kent	1,609	1,829	2,020	1,884	1,888	2,125
Lancashire	2,505	2,525	2,594	2,694	2,784	2,460
Leicestershire	1,754	1,869	1,879	1,893	1,932	1,989
Lincolnshire	1,810	1,623	1,766	1,736	1,604	1,662
London, City of	427	355	319	336	314	289
Merseyside	1,445	1,569	1,673	1,726	1,854	1,744
Metropolitan police	15,812	19,261	19,317	21,238	18,648	17,183
Norfolk	1,888	2,108	1,972	2,019	1,877	1,780
Northamptonshire	1,053	1,157	1,318	1,152	1,202	1,107
Northumbria	2,387	2,644	2,405	2,362	2,338	2,129
North Wales	850	783	773	617	681	662
North Yorkshire	2,331	2,563	1,991	2,041	2,020	1,796
Nottinghamshire	2,608	2,744	2,601	2,876	3,026	2,775
South Wales	1,717	1,822	1,978	1,762	1,810	1,866
South Yorkshire	1,787	1,346	1,421	1,725	1,690	1,619
Staffordshire	1,235	1,285	1,232	1,270	1,319	1,276
Suffolk	1,439	1,457	1,653	1,828	1,759	1,653
Surrey	1,085	1,297	1,331	1,463	1,679	1,539
Sussex	2,329	2,683	2,811	3,165	3,097	2,792
Thames Valley	5,264	5,547	5,879	5,994	5,688	5,239
Warwickshire	1,001	1,076	878	1,005	1,028	845
West Mercia	1,484	1,559	1,596	1,592	1,577	1,639
West Midlands	3,301	3,229	2,793	3,132	3,233	3,092
West Yorkshire	2,250	2,374	2,175	2,521	2,495	2,357
Wiltshire	1,050	1,001	1,074	1,253	1,335	1,446
England and Wales	97,755	105,467	105,953	113,192	110,526	103,999

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[2] Includes British Transport police from 2002-03 onwards.

Travelling People

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent guidance issued by his Department to police forces on policing unauthorised Traveller camps. [278358]

Mr. Hanson: The Association of Chief Police Officers published new guidance on unauthorised encampments in January of this year. A copy of this guidance has been placed in the Library.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what car journeys he took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273938]

(2) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273939]

(3) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273940]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) attended Cabinet on 16 April 2009 as the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Total expenditure incurred by my Department was £607.42. This was incurred for travel costs only. Three car journeys were undertaken.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April 2009 I refer the hon. Member to the answer by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278729]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not made any such notifications to the Information Commissioner.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278730]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been no officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport or the Royal Parks (i) disciplined or (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months.

Departmental Stationery

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on the purchase of *(a)* recycled office supplies in the last 12 months and *(b)* printer ink cartridges in each of the last five years. [274205]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) The Department spent the following amounts on recycled office supplies in the last three years. Information prior to 2006 is not available.

	£
2008	7,048.46
2007	4,020.10
2006	3,919.23

(b) The Department has not bought any printer ink cartridges in the last three years. Information prior to 2006 is not available.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of office supplies purchased by his Department were recycled products in the latest period for which figures are available. [275349]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2008 the Department spent £35,452.77 on office supplies, of which £7,048.46 was for the purchase of recycled products. This equates to 20 per cent.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure *(a)* Arts Council England, *(b)* Sport England, *(c)* UK Sport, incurred on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which organisation carried out each such survey. [265387]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The annual cost of staff surveys for the named organisations (as provided by those organisations) in each of the last five years is set out in the table. All figures include VAT. The figures include the costs of main staff surveys and do not include ad hoc requests for information.

Cost of survey and organisation involved

£

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Arts Council England	0	[1]28,000	0	[2]23,400	[2]18,300
Sport England	[3]21,764	0	0	0	0
UK Sport	0	0	0	0	[5]3,450
English Heritage	0	0	0	[4]30,550	0
The Royal Parks	0	0	0	[6]3,399.12	[6]9,533.53
				[7]12,638.70	—

[1] The Leadership Factor.
[2] Ipsos Mori (A).
[3] GfK NOP.
[4] Fergus Consulting Partnership.
[5] TalentPulse.
[6] ORC International.
[7] Atkins Management

Note:
The 2007-08 and 2008-09 costs were part of one survey carried out over two financial years.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277418]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am not able to provide the information requested.

It is standard statistical practice in DCMS not to release statistical information pertaining to individual members of staff when the numbers of staff involved are less then five. This is done to protect individuals' identities.

Equality: Broadcasting

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Minister for Women and Equality on the likely effects of the provisions of the Equality Bill on the commissioning, content and broadcast of television and radio programmes. [278198]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* Officials from my Department and from the Government Equalities that the Equality Bill may have on the commissioning, content and broadcast of television and radio programmes. The Government policy is that the new equality duty should not apply to the commissioning, content and broadcast of programmes.

Gambling: Internet

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with his French counterpart on the effect on UK companies of proposed changes to internet gambling legislation in France. [277470]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* There have been no formal discussions with French Ministers on the effect on UK companies of proposed changes to internet gambling legislation in France.

However, I met with my French counterpart on 3 June 2009 to informally discuss a number of sport and gambling related issues.

Licensing Laws: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what timetable has been established for action on the recommendations of the Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel in respect of the shortfall between local authority costs and income. [278670]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We hope to be in a position to announce our response shortly. As you will appreciate, our response must be agreed across Government and this has taken longer than we had anticipated. We will accompany any proposals to change the fee structure with plans to review them after an appropriate period, and consult on them before they are implemented.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in developing the community sports legacy from the London 2012 Olympics; and if he will make a statement. [278309]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* Since the publication of the Government's Legacy Action Plan in June 2008, there has been significant progress on delivering our aims for a lasting community sport legacy from the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

In December 2008 Sport England announced £480 million of funding over the next four years to national governing bodies of sport to help deliver their outcome of 1 million more people playing sport regularly, as part of our legacy aim to get 2 million people more active.

Sport England have also announced several new streams of lottery funding, including a £10 million themed round aimed at boosting sport participation in rural communities, and a £5 million Innovation Fund seeking new ways of getting people playing more sport—as part of a further investment of up to £220 million over the

The Government are investing at least £780 million over 2008 to 2011 to develop sport opportunities for all young people through our PE and Sport Strategy for Young People. 90 per cent. of pupils now do two hours of high quality PE and school sport, and with delivery partners the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England, we are mapping provision of the five-hour offer in every School Sport Partnership area. Over the past year, we have rolled out a number of new programmes to get more young people doing sport: Sport Unlimited is a £36 million initiative which, by 2010-11, aims to give 900,000 more 11 to 19-year-olds opportunities to take part in sports that interest them most outside of school; we now have a new network of school sport coaches; a network of 226 competition managers are increasing competition between schools; and we have delivered 250 new multi-sport clubs for young disabled people.

As set out in the Legacy Action Plan, a ministerial sports legacy board has been set up and met earlier this year. It brings together, for the first time, all those who have a role to play in delivering the sports legacy across the UK—the UK Government, the Devolved Administrations, Sport England, UK Sport, the Youth Sport Trust, London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and others. The group will enable all of us to work together to maximise the opportunity which the Olympics and Paralympics provides to deliver a world leading sporting nation and get more children, young people and adults participating regularly in sport.

Public Houses

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on the community pubs inquiry report, when he expects the Government's response to the community pubs inquiry report to be published. [278711]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Government have now published their response to the community pubs inquiry report. Hard copies are available in the Vote and Printed Paper Office, and it is also available on the DCMS website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6137.aspx

Sports: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the £783 million allocated to the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People in 2009-10 to 2011-12 has been spent. [277135]

Mr. Sutcliffe: £783 million was allocated to the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People for the current spending round 2008-11, channelled through the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Sport England.

For the financial year 2008-09, the Department for Children, Schools and Families have advised that they have spent £151,300,000 and Sport England have advised that they have spent £22,655,000. Both figures are subject to audit and verification.

Television

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions his Department has had with Ofcom on a timetable for the completion of its investigation into the pay television market; and when he expects Ofcom to publish a third consultation outlining potential remedies to structural problems identified in the market. [277834]

Mr. Bradshaw: Competition matters are the responsibility of, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-East the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. McFadden). However, my officials have discussed the timetable of this investigation with Ofcom and I understand that they expect to make a statement on their progress and current findings by the end of June.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Roger Berry: To ask the Leader of the House what discussions she has had with the House authorities on the interpretation of the requirement in the Additional Costs Allowance rules, paragraph 3.11.1 of the 2006 Green Book, that 'the location of your main home will normally be a matter of fact. If you have more than one home, your main home will normally be the one where you spend more nights than any other'; what external *(a)* legal and *(b)* accountancy advice (i) has been obtained and (ii) is planned to be obtained on that interpretation; and if she will make a statement. [278162]

Barbara Keeley: The interpretation of the rules governing Members' allowances is a matter for the House authorities. The Standards and Privileges Committee considered the rules relating to the designation of main homes in its Fifteenth Report of 2007-08 (HC 1127). It is the responsibility of individual Members to ensure that the designation of their main home complies with the rules of the House.

The Office of the Leader of the House has taken no external legal or accountancy advice on this subject and has no plans to do so.

Roger Berry: To ask the Leader of the House what discussions she has had with the House authorities on the interpretation of the requirement in the Additional Costs Allowance rules, paragraphs 3.1.1 and 3.10.2 of the 2006 Green Book, that expenses must be 'wholly, exclusively and necessarily' incurred for the purpose of an hon. Member performing parliamentary duties; what external *(a)* legal and *(b)* accountancy advice (i) has been obtained and (ii) is planned to be obtained on the interpretation of those words; and if she will make a statement. [278163]

Barbara Keeley: The interpretation of the rules governing Members' allowances is a matter for the House authorities. It is the responsibility of individual Members to ensure that their claims comply with the rules of the House.

The Office of the Leader of the House has taken no external legal or accountancy advice on this subject and

Private Members' Bills: Parliamentary Procedure

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House if she will bring forward proposals to amend Standing Orders to provide that in respect of private members' Bills on Fridays no fewer than 20 hon. Members rising in their places, at or after the moment of interruption, shall be required to constitute objection to further proceeding; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

Barbara Keeley: My right hon. Friend has no plans to do so.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the deployment of the Headquarters of 6 (UK) Division to command the International Security Assistance Force's Regional Command (South) from November 2009 to November 2010 will change the establishment number for UK troops in Afghanistan. [illegible]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The deployment of the Headquarters of 6 (UK) Division will be managed within the approved UK force levels in Afghanistan as announced by the Prime Minister in his statement to the House on 29 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 871.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of UK military equipment formerly deployed to Iraq is intended to be *(a)* redeployed to Afghanistan and *(b)* gifted to the Iraqi armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 June 2009]*: Information on the proportion of military equipment that was formerly deployed to Iraq but which may be redeployed to Afghanistan is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

With respect to items previously gifted to the Government of Iraq, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor on 12 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 748W, to the right hon. and learned Member for North-East Fife (Sir Menzies Campbell).

Armed Forces: Fuels

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of transporting each type of fuel to each zone in which British troops are engaged in military action in each of the last three years. [illegible]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel received overpayments in what reasons the overpayments were made; what the reasons were for the time taken to identify the error in making payments; and if he will make a statement. [278242]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 June 2009]*: In the last 10 years there have been three incidents of armed forces pension overpayments caused by systemic errors. The majority of these errors stem from the complexity of the scheme legislation and required extensive programmes of investigation to identify individuals affected and take corrective action.

The first was in 2001 when the National Audit Office identified 2,300 cases where the national insurance abatement had not been applied. All the affected pensions were corrected by 11 April 2005 and recovery of the overpayments made was not sought.

In 2006, an error in the transfer of information between the former Veterans Agency and the former Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency resulted in 98 AFPS overpayments. All errors were corrected by 31 March 2008 and recovery of the overpayments was not sought.

In December 2008, the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP) error identified 4,716 AFPS pensions that required correcting. The majority have now been corrected and the recovery of the overpayments was not sought.

Overpayments made on an individual basis are only held for the last three years and are provided in the following table.

Reason for overpayment	*Number*
Late notification of death	10,124
National fraud initiative	147
Transfer to full-time Reserve Service	53
Pension sharing on divorce	43
Other[1]	109
Total	10,476

[1] Combination of revised pension awards, payments to incorrect bank accounts non-entitlement to pension after remarriage, overpayment child pensions and others.

Army: Lost Property

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army *(a)* guns and *(b)* other weapons have (i) been stolen and (ii) otherwise gone missing in each year since 1997. [278451]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the number of Army guns (pistols, rifles, machine guns, shotguns and cadet rifles) reported stolen or lost since 1997. No weapons other than those defined above were reported stolen or lost in this period. These figures exclude information from incidents on operations, which are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Gun thefts	*Gun losses*
1997	6	2
1998	6	3
1999	9	2
2000	28	2
2001	8	2
2002	12	4
2004	13	1
2005	0	0
2006	0	0
2007	0	0
2008	0	2
2009[1]	4	2

[1] Up to 5 June 2009.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273913]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My predecessor was accompanied by one private secretary.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what car journeys he took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273914]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My predecessor made three journeys by car during the visit. These were from the airport to visit a defence contractor at Govan shipyard, from Govan to the Cabinet at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), and from the SECC to the airport.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273915]

(2) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273916]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The only direct expenditure by the Ministry of Defence was the purchase of two return London-Glasgow plane tickets for my predecessor and an accompanying official, totalling £767.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Departmental Buildings

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* land and *(b)* buildings his Department has sold since 1997. [278021]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Records of transactions prior to 2000 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member with the information on land and buildings sold since 2000 as soon as these data have been verified and collated.

Kenya: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1159W, on Somalia: piracy, how long the eight suspects transferred to Kenyan custody were held on Royal Navy vessels before being transferred; and if he will make a statement. [273045]

Bill Rammell: The eight suspects were detained on board Royal Fleet Auxiliary Wave Knight for five days while transiting to a Kenyan port, before being transferred to Kenyan authorities for prosecution under the provisions of a memorandum of understanding. Prior to this they had been detained for three days on board the pirated dhow under Royal Navy escort.

Special Forces: Defence Equipment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to provide for counter-sniper systems similar to those used by US forces in Iraq to be used by British armed forces. [277910]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We do have a shot detection capability, the details of which I am withholding for reasons of operational security.

Special Forces: Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take in respect of funding for the UK special forces in advance of the implementation of the rebalancing strategy for the armed forces. [277909]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is the long-standing policy of this and previous Governments not to comment on matters relating to UK special forces, as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

War Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent progress his Department has made in its review of the future of war pensions committees; whether the review will take account of the views of disabled veterans and their families served by such committees; and whether hon. Members will be given the opportunity to comment on the conclusions of the review before final decisions are taken; [276732]

(2) if he will make it his policy to publish the outcomes of his review of the future of war pensions committees. [276846]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A review of the War Pensions Committees is currently under way. The review is being

other stakeholders and an initial symposium was held on 25 March 2009. It is our intention to consult widely as the review develops, in line with normal practice. Any hon. Member who has shown an interest in this review will be invited to respond to any consultation before final decisions are made.

As with other policy developments and consultations, the outcome of the review, and a summary of responses to consultation, will be published.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Manpower

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* regular police officers and *(b)* reservists of each rank served in the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [277748]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Lady, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Museums and Galleries

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria are applied by the museum at the Police Service of Northern Ireland headquarters on whether to accept donations of *(a)* Royal Ulster Constabulary and *(b)* B Specials memorabilia. [277739]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Lady, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prison Service: Misconduct

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which offences by prison service staff constitute gross misconduct warranting termination of employment. [277749]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to list every type of behaviour that might constitute gross misconduct. However, the Northern Ireland Prison Service Code of Conduct and Discipline gives examples of the type of conduct that will normally be regarded as gross misconduct and which will normally result in dismissal for a first offence. These are:

> serious unprofessional conduct, for example trafficking or any act of violence involving a prisoner or other member of staff, or damage of property;
>
> instances of theft, fraud or any other act involving dishonesty at work;
>
> abuse of official position;
>
> serious acts of negligence causing appreciable loss, damage to Prison Service property or injury;
>
> insubordination liable to lead to serious disorder or loss of control in an establishment; and
>
> serious or persistent acts of harassment including sexual

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prison officers have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed on grounds of gross misconduct in each of the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [277750]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the number of prison officers who have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* dismissed on grounds of gross misconduct in the last three years for the reasons stated.

	Action	*Misconduct*
2006	4 suspensions	1 harassment 2 PSNI criminal investigations 1 fraudulent activity involving expenses
	3 dismissals	1 failure to provide relevant information on security form 2 subject to criminal proceedings
2007	2 suspensions	1 interfered with prisoner's confidential correspondence 1 fraudulent activity involving a prisoner
	2 dismissals	1 harassment 1 fraudulent activity involving a prisoner
2008	17 suspensions	16 neglect of duty 1 inappropriate relationship with a prisoner
	2 dismissals	1 interfered with prisoner's confidential correspondence 1 inappropriate relationship with a prisoner

OLYMPICS

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much *(a)* her Office and *(b)* the Government Olympic Executive has spent on (i) conference services and (ii) banqueting services in each year since their creation. [274499]

Tessa Jowell: Part of Government Olympic Executive's (GOE) role is to develop legacy plans and ensure full economic and social benefits to the United Kingdom.

Since its creation the GOE, and the Minister for the Olympics' Office, have spent £225,893 on hosting five conferences—one in Leeds, two in east London and two in central London. Two conferences focused on the UK-wide business benefits of London 2012, one on disability, one on volunteering, and one on the International Inspiration Programme, which is aimed at transforming the lives of 12 million children and young people across 20 developing countries worldwide.

The GOE has also spent £4,686 on five dinners hosted by the Minister for the Olympics designed to consult a range of industry, charity and public sector leaders and inform our preparations for 2012. These events have covered a broad range of issues including

means by which we can secure a positive legacy from the games; our plans for using volunteers on the 2012 programme; how we maximise access to and legacy from the games for disabled people; how we overcome challenges in relation to construction of the Olympic Park; as well as the use of new media and technology and legacy of the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre. All resulted in proposals for further actions which are being developed.

Olympic Delivery Authority: Manpower

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people are employed by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA); what the staffing costs of the ODA were in the last 12 months; and how many ODA staff work on *(a)* project management, *(b)* legacy planning and *(c)* financial oversight. [277376]

Tessa Jowell: At 30 April 2009 ODA employed 246 staff, permanent, secondments and fixed term, the latter including a number of graduates recruited for a 10-month placement as part of the ODA graduate placement scheme.

The ODA's staff costs for the 12 months to 30 April 2009 were £21.5 million, including salary, national insurance and pension contributions. The staff costs reflect, in part, the need to employ high quality external expertise to meet the unique challenge that the Olympics represents—delivering a large and complex programme to a fixed deadline. This is a successful operation: we are on time and within budget. The overall management costs of the Olympic programme are well within industry benchmarks for a project of this size.

Of the ODA's staff 136 are working on project management. This includes work on legacy planning. Every project in the programme is considered with legacy in mind, ensuring that legacy requirements are incorporated in design briefs, specifications and business planning. This approach is designed to ensure that the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will be the catalyst for the regeneration, but it also means that staff are not attributed specifically to legacy planning.

The ODA's Finance and Business Planning team employs 19 staff on financial oversight and who work closely with the Delivery Partner. This excludes internal Cabinet Office audit services which are provided by Ernst and Young.

Olympic Games 2012

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics (1) what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting Olympic events in the Lower Lea Valley; [278344]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics white water canoe event at River Lee Country Park; [278311]

(3) what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting London 2012 Olympics events at Earl's Court. [278317]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 8 June 2009]*: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse."

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

In respect of the white water canoe course and Eton Manor, which are being constructed by the Olympic Delivery Authority, the project budgets cannot be disclosed at the current time owing to reasons of commercial sensitivity.

HEALTH

Breast Cancer: Screening

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times for breast cancer screening in each primary care trust were in the latest period for which information is available. [278865]

Ann Keen: Waiting times in the NHS Breast Screening Programme are measured by the proportion of eligible women who are recalled for screening within 36 months of their previous screen. This is known as round length. Round length is not measured by primary care trust, but round length by local breast screening unit ranked in descending order for quarter 4 2008-09 (January to March 2009) is shown in the following table.

Breast screening unit	*36 month round length (percentage)*
Doncaster	100
Aylesbury	100
Wycombe	100
Crewe	99
Macclesfield	99
Wirral	99
Sheffield	99
Rotherham	99
Epping	99
West Devon	99
Northampton	99
South Derbyshire	99
Kettering	99
Windsor	99
Portsmouth	99
North Yorkshire	98
Leeds Wakefield	98
Barnsley	98
West of London	98
Barking and Havering	98
Shropshire	98
South Staffordshire	98
Avon	98
Dorset	98
Somerset	98
Milton Keynes	98
Reading	98
Southampton and Salisbury	98
Isle of Wight	98
North Tees	97
[illegible]	97
East Suffolk	97
North Staffordshire	97
Cornwall	97
North Nottinghamshire	97
Lincolnshire	97
Canterbury	97
Bolton	96
North Cumbria	96
North Yorkshire	96
South East London (Greenwich)	96
Cambridge and Huntingdon	96
Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry	96
South Devon	96
Wiltshire	96
Maidstone	96
Medway	96
Chester	95
South West London	95
King's Lynn	95
South Essex	95
Liverpool	94
Newcastle	94
James Paget (Great Yarmouth)	94
Oxford	94
East Lancashire	93
South East London (Kings)	92
Chelmsford and Colchester	91
Humberside	90
West Suffolk	90
North Derbyshire	89
Leicester	88
Warrington	87
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	87
West Sussex	87
Norfolk and Norwich	86
Wigan	85
Jarvis Centre (Guildford)	85
Greater Manchester	84
Hereford and Worcester	84
South Birmingham	84
Gloucestershire	79
Nottingham	78
City and East London	76
East Devon	75
City Hospital (Birmingham)	69
Peterborough	62
Dudley and Wolverhampton	58
North Lancashire	48
North and Mid-Hampshire	43
North London	22
Brighton	8

Source:
NHS Cancer Screening Programme

Health Bill

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* his recent letter regarding the potential costs of compliance with Part 3 of the Health Bill [*Lords*] sent to retailers and *(b)* his Department's analysis upon which such estimates were based; and what plans he has to issue further guidance to retailers on the means by which compliance may be achieved prior to the

Gillian Merron: The letter relating to the tobacco provisions of the Health Bill sent from Baroness Thornton to the National Federation of Retailers and Newsagents dated 6 May 2009 has been placed in the Library. The letter contains information on the potential costs of removing tobacco displays, including cost estimates provided to the Department from a Canadian company with experience of providing solutions to remove tobacco displays in Canada. Further detail of the analysis of estimate costs of removing tobacco displays, and other measures contained in the Health Bill, can be found in the impact assessment produced by the Department, copies of which are available from the Vote Office in the House of Commons or from the Department's website.

The Department is committed to working with retail organisations such as the Association of Convenience Stores, the British Retail Consortium and the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, along with the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services, to develop and distribute guidance to business with regard to regulations on tobacco displays.

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish in draft form the draft regulations provided for under the provisions of the Health Bill [*Lords*]. [278313]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The timetable for preparing and publishing draft regulations which support, where relevant, implementation of the provisions in the Bill will vary and depends on a range of different factors concerning each provision. We aim to publish draft regulations on the tobacco provisions as soon as possible, subject to the passage of the Health Bill through Parliament. This would give businesses adequate lead-in time before regulations commence.

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations he plans to consult on the provisions contained in Part 3 of the Health Bill [*Lords*]. [278314]

Gillian Merron: We intend to work closely with a wide range of interested stakeholders, as appropriate, on the detailed implementation of the provisions in Part 3 of the Health Bill.

We are already working with various organisations to develop draft regulations concerning the tobacco provisions. The consultation on the draft regulations will be open to all interested stakeholders and members of the public.

The organisations we will consult include, but are not limited to: the Association of Convenience Stores, the British Retail Consortium, the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services, the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators, the UK Travel Retail Forum, the Association of Independent Tobacco Specialists, the Imported Tobacco Products Advisory Council, the Local Government Association, the Airport Operators Association as well as a number of individual businesses.

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to undertake a regulatory impact assessment on the effect of the provisions of the Health Bill [*Lords*] on small retail businesses; and if he will make a statement. [278315]

Gillian Merron: The published impact assessments supporting the Bill include, where relevant, our assessment of the likely impact on smaller retailers.

Copies of the impact assessments supporting the Bill can be obtained from the Vote Office in the House of Commons, and are also available in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsLegislation/DH_093278

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the provisions contained in Part 3 of the Health Bill [*Lords*] and the likely cost of their implementation. [278316]

Gillian Merron: All relevant provisions in Part 3 of the Health Bill were cleared through the usual processes across Government, including with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The Department continues to work closely with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the Bill's provisions, in particular to ensure regulations are developed that will enable cost-effective solutions to be used to remove tobacco displays. Relevant provisions are supported by full impact assessments.

Health Services

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's impact assessments in measuring inequalities in *(a)* gender, *(b)* social, *(c)* geographical and *(d)* ethnic groups in relation to cardiovascular and kidney disease and diabetes. [278591]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton) on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W.

The Department has assessed the impact on equality relating to policies on cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and diabetes. The assessments identify and analyse the available data and evidence on inequalities in relation to these conditions and set out ways in which to reduce the inequalities. The assessments have informed policy development in these areas and are expected to lead to improvements in outcomes and a reduction in inequalities.

The Department expects to monitor progress in reducing inequalities for conditions including diabetes, kidney disease and stroke. This will include activity to identify gaps in evidence and ways of addressing these, increasing awareness of health and social care services of high risk groups and improving the availability and quality of data to ensure people with these conditions are identified and receive good quality care. Improvements in access to services, a better experience and better outcomes for groups at risk will demonstrate the effectiveness of the impact assessments in identifying inequalities and suggesting ways of reducing them.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 712W, on hospitals: infections, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of surgical site infections resulting from orthopaedic surgeries. [278864]

Ann Keen: A key component is surveillance of surgical site infections (SSIs). Since 2004, when surveillance of orthopaedic surgical site infections became mandatory, rates of SSI have decreased.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of co-incidence of clostridium difficile and other healthcare-associated infections has been in individual patients in England in the last five years. [278866]

Ann Keen: Data on co-infections are not collected centrally.

NHS: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman will be limited to the investigation of maladministration or service failure in his consideration of complaints which would previously have been subject to review by the Healthcare Commission. [278611]

Ann Keen: The scope and remit of the parliamentary and health service ombudsman to consider complaints has not been changed by the abolition of the Healthcare Commission.

Putney Hospital

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Wandsworth Primary Care Trust has spent on *(a)* the development plans for Putney Primary Care Centre, *(b)* the security and maintenance of the Putney Hospital site and *(c)* consultation with local residents on development plans for Putney Primary Care Centre in each year since Putney Hospital closed. [278793]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally. The future of the site of the former Putney hospital is a matter for Wandsworth Primary Care Trust.

Social Services: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms exist for hon. Members to request an immediate response from social services to urgent cases referred to them by those hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [278810]

Phil Hope: The responsibility for regulating adult social care services rests with the Care Quality Commission (CQC). CQC has a range of enforcement powers and will take action where it considers that the welfare of

Where concerns are raised about social services, there is no requirement for local authorities, or CQC, to respond urgently to any particular individuals or groups. However, the Department would expect them to respond in an appropriate and timely manner, taking account of the circumstances of the case.

Local authorities are autonomous, elected bodies. They are responsible for ensuring that the services they commission or provide meet the needs of service users and they must discharge their statutory duties and act legally. If a service user, or someone acting on their behalf, has concerns about the conduct or performance of their social services department, they are entitled to pursue the matter through the statutory social services complaints procedure, which all local authorities are required to have, or they may ask the local government ombudsman to investigate.

The responsibility for children's social care services rests with the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

TREASURY

Tax Avoidance

9. **David Taylor:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of *(a)* high street banks and *(b)* major accounting firms on measures to reduce tax avoidance. [278512]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor and Treasury Ministers have a range of discussions with industry on Budget representations.

In addition, HM Revenue and Customs is in regular contact with banks and major accounting firms on a range of issues including tax avoidance, the introduction of a code of practice on taxation for banks, and other matters of mutual interest.

Tax Reporting Requirements

12. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost to businesses of complying with tax reporting requirements. [278515]

14. **Mr. Binley:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost to businesses of complying with tax reporting requirements. [278517]

Mr. Timms: Research commissioned by HMRC in 2005 found the administrative burden imposed on business by the UK tax system is approximately £5.1 billion a year.

Reducing administrative burdens for business is a priority for this Government, and so is one of HMRC's priorities. At Budget 2009, HMRC have reported significant progress and have implemented or committed to measures that will deliver administrative savings to business of

Public Sector Debt

13. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what date he next expects public sector debt to fall below 40 per cent. of gross domestic product. [278516]

Kitty Ussher: The UK entered the global economic crisis with low public debt, which has given the flexibility to allow debt to rise in the short term to support the economy. Reflecting the Government's commitment to ensuring sustainable public finances over the medium term, the temporary fiscal operating rule requires debt to be falling as a proportion of GDP once the global shocks have worked their way though the economy in full. The Budget set out plans that are consistent with debt falling as a share of GDP by 2015-16.

Financial Services Authority

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the chairman and the chief Executive of the Financial Services Authority on the authority's performance against its objectives. [278519]

Ian Pearson: Ministers and officials meet the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues. The FSA reports annually to the Treasury on its performance against objectives. The Treasury then lays the report before Parliament.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

17. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the aggregate percentage change to departmental expenditure limits between 2010-11 and 2013-14. [278520]

Mr. Byrne: In the 10 years from 1997, total public spending increased by 43 per cent. in real terms, compared to 14 per cent. in the previous decade. Such high levels of investment, coupled with reforms, have enabled the Government to achieve major improvements across frontline public services. The Government are committed to increasing investment in important public service priorities over the coming years, alongside delivering more efficient and effective public services and cutting down on waste. Departmental allocations plans for 2010-11 were set out in Budget 2009.

Departmental allocations plans beyond 2010-11 will be decided at the next spending review. Over 2011-12 to 2013-14, public sector current expenditure is set to grow at an average of 0.7 per cent. in real terms, and public sector net investment will move to 1.25 per cent. of GDP in 2013-14.

19. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the aggregate percentage change to departmental expenditure limits between 2010-11 and 2013-14. [278522]

23. **Mr. Spring:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the aggregate percentage change to departmental expenditure limits between 2010-11 and 2013-14. [278526]

Mr. Byrne: In the 10 years from 1997, total public spending increased by 43 per cent. in real terms, compared to 14 per cent. in the previous decade. Such high levels of investment, coupled with reforms, have enabled the Government to achieve major improvements across frontline public services. The Government are committed to increasing investment in important public service priorities over the coming years, alongside delivering more efficient and effective public services and cutting down on waste.

Departmental allocations plans for 2010-11 were set out in Budget 2009. Departmental allocations plans beyond 2010-11 will be decided at the next spending review. Over 2011-12 to 2013-14, public sector current expenditure is set to grow at an average of 0.7 per cent. in real terms, and public sector net investment will move to 1.25 per cent. of GDP in 2013-14.

Employment

18. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of employment of the measures in the 2009 Budget. [278521]

22. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on levels of employment of the measures in the 2009 Budget. [278525]

Kitty Ussher: Action the Government have taken in the pre-Budget report 2008, since then and at Budget 2009 is of critical importance in supporting employment. For example, targeted cash-flow support for businesses through HMRC's Business Payment Support Service has already helped 100,000 businesses employing 600,000 people since PBR. Precise quantification of the impact of each measure in the 2009 Budget will be undertaken where possible and when the relevant data become available.

Small Businesses

20. **Mr. Reid:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that banks continue to provide liquidity to small businesses. [278523]

Ian Pearson: The Government are taking action to ensure competitively priced loans continue to be available. On 19 January, the Government announced measures to reinforce the stability of the financial system, increase confidence and capacity to lend, and support the recovery of the economy. These measures build on those announced on 8 October 2008.

The Government have agreed lending commitments with Lloyds and RBS that will see Lloyds lend an additional £11 billion to businesses, and RBS an additional £16 billion to businesses—on commercial terms and subject to market demand—over the 12 months from March 2009.

The Government will report annually to Parliament on the delivery of these agreements.

Automotive Assistance Programme

21. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ministers and officials in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the automotive assistance programme; and if he will make a statement. [278524]

Kitty Ussher: Treasury Ministers and officials regularly have discussions with Ministers and officials in the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on all the Government's initiatives to provide real help to business, including the Automotive Assistance Programme.

The AAP received state aid clearance on 27 February 2009 with an "Open for Business" promotional seminar hosted by BERR on 11 March. Since then, there have been more than 70 further requests for information on the scheme. The Government are working with companies, resulting in around 15 approaches being taken forward in more detail.

Financial Services: Consumer Interests

24. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that UK Financial Investments takes into account the interests of consumers of financial services. [278527]

Ian Pearson: The overarching objectives for the UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI) are to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition. This objective includes promoting competition in a way that is consistent with a UK financial services industry that operates to the benefit of consumers.

It is not the role of the UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI) and the Treasury to intervene in the day-to-day management decisions of invested banks and banks which are in temporary public ownership.

Pensioner Poverty

Mary Creagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on levels of pensioner poverty of the proposals made in the 2009 Budget. [278514]

Ian Pearson: The Government have made significant progress in tackling pensioner poverty over the last decade lifting 900,000 pensioners out of relative poverty since 1998. The Government remain committed to tackling pensioner poverty and in April the guarantee element of pension credit increased by the largest amount since its introduction and above indexation. Budget 2009 took further action to help pensioner incomes. It announced an additional payment alongside this year's winter fuel payment and a package of measures to support pensioners

Bank Lending

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect on levels of bank lending of measures introduced in the 2009 Budget. [278518]

Ian Pearson: As set out in the Budget, in response to the current financial market stress and instability, the Government have taken decisive and immediate steps to limit the negative effects on the economy.

On 19 January 2009, the Government announced a package of measures package designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These measures build on those announced on 8 October last year.

At the 2008 pre-Budget report, the Government announced the creation of a new Lending Panel (made up of lenders, trade and consumer bodies, Government, regulators and the Bank of England) to monitor lending. As part of this new monitoring approach, the Bank of England is publishing new monthly report—"Trends in Lending"—which presents the bank's assessment of latest developments in lending to UK economy. This report is available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/other/monetary/trendsinlending.htm

Landfill Tax

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what plans his Department has to publish a report on the outcomes of the consultation on proposed changes to landfill tax; and if he will make a statement; [278338]

(2) which individuals and organisations have been invited to respond to his Department's consultation on proposed changes to landfill tax. [278339]

Kitty Ussher: This consultation, launched on 22 April 2009, is being conducted in accordance with the Government's Consultation Code of Practice. An assessment of the responses will be undertaken following the end of the consultation and a summary of responses will be published thereafter including any decisions taken in the light of the exercise.

Hard copies of the consultation document have been sent to all landfill site operators registered for the tax by HMRC. An electronic copy of the consultation was sent to various stakeholder groups including Government bodies, waste management companies, environmental organisations, trade associations and industry bodies. Comments are welcome from anyone with an interest. The document is available from both the HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs websites. Printed copies are also available from these Departments.

Revenue and Customs: Debt Collection

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department takes to ensure that debt collection work contracted out by HM Revenue and Customs is undertaken only by registered

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not commission bailiffs to recover tax arrears or other debts and has no plans to do so.

The Department is currently carrying out a small-scale six-month trial to test the use of private debt collection agencies. The agencies involved have been chosen from a government framework contract and have successfully pursued debts on behalf of other Government Departments for some years. The pilot does not involve face to face contact or visits to home or business premises.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what categories of information on creditors are provided to debt collectors working on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs; and what procedures are in place to ensure the security of personal data relating to individuals in such circumstances. [277771]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and those acting on its behalf have a strict statutory duty of confidentiality and information is only passed to third parties by HMRC for the purposes permitted by law. The Department is currently carrying out a small-scale six-month trial to test the use of private debt collection agencies (DCAs). HMRC will supply to such agencies only sufficient information to enable identification and collection of any debt and authentication of the identity of the debtor.

The DCAs' processes have already been accredited by other Government Departments. HMRC have carried out additional checks to ensure the statutory duty of confidentiality will be maintained. These will be supplemented by robust audit and assurance as the pilot proceeds.

Unemployment

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what fiscal measures his Department has put in place to reduce the unemployment rate for 18 to 24 year olds. [278330]

Kitty Ussher: The Government are committed to giving everyone the support they need to find employment as quickly as possible, whatever their age.

On 6 April 2009, as part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, Government put in place a package of support available to anyone unemployed for more than six months, including a recruitment subsidy of £1,000 for employers that recruit those in receipt of JSA for six months or more. Government also launched extra support for newly unemployed customers including one-to-one advice and coaching, and a quadrupling of funding for the Rapid Response Service.

Funding was provided in the Budget for a guaranteed offer of a job, work-focused training, or work experience for at least six months for all 18 to 24-year-olds who have been claiming JSA for 12 months. This offer will consist of:

New jobs created through the Future Jobs Fund, which will be worth around £1 billion and will create up to 100,000 new jobs for young people, as well as a further 50,000 specifically targeted in areas of high unemployment. Local authorities, partnerships and others will be able to bid to create jobs through the Fund;

Support to move into a job in a key employment sector, including a subsidy to support 50,000 social care jobs through Care First:

Work-focused training; or

A place on a Community Task Force, delivering real help within their local community.

The guarantee will come into effect from January 2010, with some jobs available as early as October 2009.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children will be permitted to read full serious case reviews. [274253]

Dawn Primarolo: The Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children, Sir Roger Singleton, will be permitted to read individual full serious case reviews if, in his view, it is necessary for him to do so in order to fulfil his remit as set out in his letter from the Secretary of State of 12 March.

Local Government: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms exist for hon. Members to request an immediate response from local education authorities in respect of urgent cases referred to them by those hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [278809]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: If a local authority fails to respond to an hon. Member within a reasonable period of time, it is open to that Member to complain to the Commission for Local Administration in England (the Local Government Ombudsman).

Pre-school Education: Qualifications

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will estimate the number and proportion of the early years childcare workforce without a level 3 or higher qualification; and if he will make a statement. [277819]

Dawn Primarolo: The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on staff working with children and young people. The number and proportion of early years child care staff without a level 3 and with at least a level 3 are detailed as follows:

Qualifications of staff across all types of providers

	Total childcare staff (excluding childminders)		Total early years staff		Childminders		Total	
	Percentage	Number[1]	Percentage	Number[1]	Percentage	Number[1]	Percentage	Number[1]
At least level 3	65	204,100	79	68,000	41	24,300	64	294,400
Do not have at least a level 3	35	109,900	21	18,100	59	35,600	36	165,600

Qualifications of staff across all types of providers

	Total childcare staff (excluding childminders)		*Total early years staff*		*Childminders*		*Total*	
	Percentage	*Number*[1]	*Percentage*	*Number*[1]	*Percentage*	*Number*[1]	*Percentage*	*Number*[1]
Total numbers[2]	100	314,100	100	86,000	100	59,800	100	459,900

[1] Numbers provided are subject to rounding error as they have been calculated based on the known total number of staff (final row of table) within each category and the proportions of staff with at least a level 3 qualification.

[2] Totals may not sum due to rounding.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service have had internal disciplinary procedures opened against them in each of the last five years. [277860]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* ACAS takes its responsibility as the originator of the Discipline and Grievance Code very seriously and is aware that it must act in accordance with its own Code. Its managers always attempt to resolve issues informally first. ACAS currently employs 892 people and the following are the numbers of internal disciplinary procedures that it has opened against staff in each of the last five years.

	Number of internal disciplinary procedures
2008	4
2007	5
2006	5
2005	1
2004	0

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service: Dismissal

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service have been dismissed before the scheduled end of a contract of employment in each of the last five years. [277859]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* ACAS currently employs 892 people and takes its responsibilities as an advocate of good employment practices seriously. This means that if an individual has an expected end date to a contract, it will be an unusual occurrence for the contract to be terminated before that date. The following are the occasions where this has happened. Permanent staff are not included in these figures.

	Number of staff
2008	2
2007	0
2006	0
[illegible]	0

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service have taken time off work as a result of a diagnosis of stress in each of the last five years. [277861]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* ACAS currently employs 892 people. The number of staff who have taken time off for stress in the last five years is as follows:

	Number of staff
[illegible]	45
2005	95
2006	67
2007	94
2008	76
2009	20

Notes:

1. The year is a calendar year. Some staff may have incurred more than one period of absence relating to stress within a year, however they have only been counted once for the purpose of this PQ.

2. Stress related absence—the information is based on the number of people who have their absence recorded as stress. 'Stress' comprises all types of stress, not just work related. Where people state the absence reason is stress and the cause for this is e.g. bereavement then bereavement is taken as the reason.

Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service: Industrial Relations

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff complaints against managers have been received by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service in each of the last five years. [277862]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 June 2009]:* ACAS currently employees 892 people. It takes its responsibilities as an advocate of good employment practices very seriously and thoroughly investigates any complaints it receives about its staff. The number of staff complaints against managers received by ACAS in each of the last five years are as follows:

	Number of staff complaints
2008	4
2007	1
2006	3
2005	1
[illegible]	1

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

(1) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273971]

(2) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food was incurred by (i) the Secretary of State and (ii) officials in his Department in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273972]

Mr. McFadden: For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Departmental Air Conditioning

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many of his Department's buildings are equipped with air conditioning systems with output greater than 250kW; how many of these systems have been inspected under the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since the Regulations entered into force; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each inspection report. [272128]

Mr. McFadden: BIS's main headquarters building at 1 Victoria street is the only building on its HQ estate that is equipped with an air conditioning system with greater than 250 kW of output. An inspection of the system in accordance with the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections)(England and Wales) Regulations 2007 is currently under way and is due for completion by 31 May.

The inspection results will be placed in both Libraries of the House.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North West Cambridgeshire of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on departmental public consultation, how many public consultations run by his Department in the last 12 months received *(a)* no response, *(b)* between one and 20 responses, *(c)* between 21 and 50 responses, *(d)* between 51 and 100 responses and *(e)* over 100 responses; which consultations received no responses; and if he will make a statement. [270928]

Mr. McFadden: Of the 36 consultations reported in the answer of 19 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1278W:

(a) one consultation received no responses;

(b) nine received between one and 20 responses;

(c) 12 received between 21 and 50 responses;

(d) nine received between 51 and 100 responses; and

The number of responses received for individual consultations is recorded in the Government responses— these are published on the departmental website alongside the consultations themselves at:

www.berr.gov.uk/consultations/

The one consultation which received no responses was 01-07-08 Consultation on a technical amendment to the Cosmetic Products (Safety) Regulations 2008.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many actions under employment law have been brought against his Department and its predecessor in each of the last three years; how many such actions were brought under each category of action; and how many such actions were contested by his Department at an employment tribunal. [277416]

Mr. McFadden: Since 2006 28 cases were lodged against the Department. We are unable to state the number in each category for reasons of confidentiality.

However in general terms the categories of claim were:

Age discrimination
Breach of contract
Disability Discrimination
Equal treatment of agency
Gender grounds
Race discrimination
Unfair dismissal
Unfair selection for redundancy
Public interest disclosure (whistle blowing)

Some individuals lodged claims under more than one category.

12 cases have proceeded to full hearing and were contested by the Department at employment tribunal. Four further cases remain pending.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effects on business solvency and closures of levels of commercial rents. [270402]

Mr. McFadden: No assessment has been made by this Department of the effects on business solvency and closures of the level of commercial rents.

While rent levels are a matter for the market, the Government are concerned to promote a fair and efficient commercial property leasing market, and to this end prompted the property industry to introduce a voluntary code of practice. They are monitoring the impact of the current version of the code, introduced in March 2007, and are looking to it to ensure that business tenants are better informed about leasing options.

The code for leasing business premises is available at the following web address:

http://www.leasingbusinesspremises.co.uk/

Parental Leave: Lone Parents and Low Incomes

John Bercow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the recommendations in the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Working Better report on the take-up of maternity and paternity leave by lone parents and parents on low incomes; and if he will make a statement. [275415]

Mr. McFadden: The Government welcome the EHRC's contribution to the debate in this important area, and recognise the importance of ensuring mothers and fathers are both able to spend the time they need with their families, while also being able to balance work and family life. That is why we have progressively introduced a substantial package of measures to help working parents while recognising the needs of employers.

From April 2007 all employed mothers have been eligible to take up to 52 weeks' maternity leave, of which 39 weeks are paid. We have also more than doubled the standard rate payable to those mothers from £55.70 in 1997 to £123.06 now. Longer and better paid maternity leave gives all mothers more choice about how much time to take off and 88 per cent. of mothers now take their full entitlement to paid leave[1].

We have also introduced statutory paternity pay at the same standard rate as SMP. More than nine-tenths of fathers take time off around the time of their child's birth[2] of which seven tenths take two weeks or more.

Government financial support including statutory maternity pay and statutory paternity pay is now worth at least £9,000 for many families during a child's first year, up from only £2,600 in 1997.

[1] Maternity rights and mothers employment decisions, 2008.

[2] Maternity rights and mothers employment decisions, 2008.

Public Houses: Manpower

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovations and Skills if he will assess the effect on employment in the beer and pub sector of trends in the level of alcohol sales from off-licences. [271602]

Mr. McFadden: This Department is aware that recent research within the sector indicates that employment in the beer and pub trade has been declining since 2006. We are working to ensure we can help all business in every way we can, so that they are well placed to benefit as soon as there is an improvement in economic circumstances. With effect from 1 March 2009, tied public houses became eligible to apply for Enterprise Finance Guarantee funding.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the net changes in the number of jobs in the brewing and public house sector in the last 12 months; and if he will take steps to safeguard jobs in this sector. [271607]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has not made any estimate of changes in the number of jobs in the brewing and public house sector in the last 12 months. The Department is aware that recent research undertaken within the brewing and public house sector indicates that employment in the beer and pub trade has been declining since 2006. We are working to restore greater confidence in our economy as a whole which should in itself help sectors such as this. With effect from 1 March 2009, tied public houses became eligible to apply for Enterprise Finance Guarantee funding.

Regeneration: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what community-led physical regeneration projects each regional development agency funded in each year since 2000. [265271]

Mr. McFadden: The community-led physical regeneration projects shown in the following tables are national schemes comprising hundreds of individual grant awards. The cost of collecting data on each grant would incur disproportionate cost. Therefore, the projects have been grouped under broad titles such as "Single Regeneration Budget" or "Market Town Initiative" alongside their annual expenditure[1].

[1] A number of schemes (e.g. SRB) ran for a finite period, and had expenditure profiles that matched the commitments entered into at the outset of the programme. Those will vary from region to region, depending on the priorities and different approaches taken by the stakeholders.

Advantage West Midlands

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	—	—	25,007	21,146	16,487	12,733	11,686	25,783	4,851
Market Town Initiative (MTI)	—	—	—	596	723	1,013	1,162	823	1,327
Other	—	—	21	603	1,570	1,548	2,876	417	1,262
Total	—	—	25,028	22,345	18,780	15,294	15,724	27,023	7,440

East of England Development Agency

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	—	40,792	8,864	13,296	5,410	3,521	1,160	367	3

East of England Development Agency

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Market Town Initiative (MTI)	—	430	452	1,634	530	505	—	—	—
Investing In Communities (IIC)	—	65	115	1,940	3,178	3,731	2,037	8	—
Economic Participation (EP)	—	1,307	798	139	1,579	1,601	6,736	9,043	11,598
Rural Renaissance	—	430	452	1,634	530	505	—	—	—
Building Communities Fund (BCF)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	450
Total	—	43,024	10,681	18,643	11,267	9,863	9,933	10,018	12,051

East Midlands Development Agency

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	—	—	—	31,682	27,750	17,870	11,285	6,148	2,641
Market Town Initiative (MTI)	—	—	93	321	213	—	—	—	—
Urban Action Plan	—	—	—	909	1,503	524	3,467	3,599	4,944
Enterprising Communities	—	147	778	4,131	1,738	3,983	2,048	3,488	1,353
Total	—	147	871	37,043	31,203	22,376	16,800	13,235	8,939

London Development Agency

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	—	97,144	119,967	104,498	76,011	43,603	40,633	21,032	5,029
Total	—	97,144	119,967	104,498	76,011	43,603	40,633	21,032	5,029

North West Development Agency

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	—	127,016	139,073	131,111	99,079	60,297	61,417	33,293	13,312
Market Town Initiative (MTI)	—	—	—	—	6	1,203	3,442	4,454	6,808
Economic Regeneration Schemes	—	—	—	1,684	10,352	18,091	31,968	38,962	46,576
Social Enterprise Schemes	—	—	—	342	759	529	815	1,507	497
Rural Renaissance	—	—	—	289	5,877	10,431	11,929	15,887	17,872
Total	—	127,016	139,073	133,426	116,073	90,551	109,371	94,103	85,065

One North East

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	78,235	78,422	84,771	82,719	59,225	35,987	22,352	5,816	1,469
Community Investment Fund	—	—	57	—	36	—	—	—	—
Total	78,235	78,422	84,828	82,719	59,261	35,987	22,352	5,816	1,469

South East England Development Agency

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	—	—	—	18,434	24,713	13,976	10,576	3,482	160
Market Town Initiative (MTI)	—	—	—	40	325	867	1,273	1,244	1,745
Hastings	—	—	93	5,459	8,242	18,893	12,864	10,633	10,735
Area Investment Framework	—	—	—	2,893	3,406	8,009	12,073	14,078	13,689
Total	—	—	93	26,826	36,686	41,745	36,786	29,437	26,319

South West Regional Development Agency

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	—	—	—	15,104	23,321	22,107	9,185	5,618	1,245
Market Town Initiative (MTI)	—	—	—	497	932	1,365	2,002	1,425	2,488
Rural Renaissance	—	—	—	296	45	638	2,568	5,127	7,105
Total	—	—	—	15,897	24,928	24,110	13,755	12,170	10,838

Yorkshire Forward

Total scheme funding (£000)

Community Regeneration Scheme	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)	—	—	118,933	112,160	92,044	63,121	36,304	27,982	11,606
Market Town Initiative (MTI)	—	—	123	1,044	1,664	1,366	443	2,219	1,098
Economic Participation (EP)	—	—	2,035	16,862	22,647	33,514	16,552	22,930	28,454
Rural Renaissance	—	—	2,349	2,960	2,549	5,221	3,471	5,774	6,258
Skills Programme	—	—	—	1,845	9,300	18,392	17,413	18,041	21,460
Total	—	—	123,440	134,871	128,204	121,614	74,183	76,946	68,876

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Computers

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1378, on departmental manpower, what expenditure his Department incurred *(a)* in total and *(b)* on the procurement of laptop computers under the Laptop Refresh project; how many laptops were procured under the project; by what means redundant laptops were disposed of under the project; for what reasons new laptops were required; how old on average were the laptops disposed of under the project; what the (i) brand and (ii) specification was of laptops purchased under the project; what the terms of reference for the project were; and if he will publish the project documentation supplied by the project manager. [277755]

Mr. Michael Foster: The total cost of the 2,400 laptops purchased under the Department for International Development (DFID) laptop refresh project was £1.8 million. Redundant laptops are given to Computeraid who distribute equipment to various projects across developing countries. All donated laptops have the data erased prior to donation and DFID receives confirmation that the equipment will eventually be disposed of in line with the waste of electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE) guidelines. Approximately 90 per cent. of the redundant laptops were past the four year end of life recommendation.

The new laptops were required as we were experiencing a high rate of failures with the previous models. We also had a requirement to standardise on a single model of laptop across the organisation.

The laptops that were purchased under this project were Dell D630s and the specification was an 80gb hard drive, dual core processor 2.2 Ghz and 2GB of memory.

The Terms of Reference for the Project Manager, the Project Initiation Document (PID) and the Project Approach Document will be placed in the Library.

Developing Countries: Infant Mortality

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the incidence of maternal mortality in the developing world. [277737]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In June 2008 the UK Government announced a commitment to spend £6 billion on improving health systems and services over seven years to 2015. The UK Government are working to accelerate progress on the reproductive and maternal health MDGs. The Prime Minister is co-chairing the High-Level Task Force on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems, which will raise additional funds for health systems and make a significant contribution to improving maternal health.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is working to achieve consensus with international partners on priority action to improve maternal and newborn health. This will provide a framework for action at global, national and sub-national levels. It also recognises the need to align the current international momentum in politics, advocacy and finance behind a commonly agreed set of policies and priority interventions to accelerate progress on maternal health at country level. Further information on DFID's work on maternal mortality is available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Global-Issues/How-we-fight-Poverty/Health/Maternal-Health/

Iraq: Economic Growth

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to assist the economic development of Iraq. [275064]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government have worked to increase Iraq's capacity to attract inward investment, which will further stimulate growth, prompt further reforms and facilitate skills transfer. Since April 2008 the UK Government have:

Facilitated over 30 visits by potential international investors, leading to proposals for investment in Iraq worth over $10 billion.

Helped establish the Basra Investment Commission, which is now leading on investment promotion for southern Iraq. We have also provided technical assistance to the National Investment Commission, with which the UK has arranged four large investment conferences: including in London in April 2008 and April 2009, Kuwait in June 2008 and Istanbul in December 2008.

Going forward, the UK Government have:

Agreed funding to help ensure that 1,000 small enterprises in southern Iraq can access the credit they need to expand their businesses.

Initiated a pilot youth vocational training and employment programme for 500 youths with the Ministry of Labour in Basra. This innovative programme should provide an employment model more widely in Iraq.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) existing programme with the World Bank is improving public financial management in the centre of government. The UK and the World Bank have also established a major new programme to help the Government of Iraq tackle the constraints to private sector development.

Capacity building support by the UK Government has enabled the Basra Provincial Council to:

Increase its budget from $23.5 million in 2006 to over $300 million in 2008; improve budget execution from 10 per cent. in 2006 to 50 per cent. in 2008; and manage over 800 development projects worth $650 million since 2006.

Produced the first report of its type in Iraq, on Provincial Reconstruction and Development Activities for 2007—demonstrating their focus on transparency and accountability.

Nepal

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what analysis his Department has carried out on the potential effect on levels of *(a)* remittances, *(b)* resettlement and *(c)* development aid for Nepal if all former Gurkha soldiers and their dependants were granted equality with UK equivalents. [278661]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not carried out analysis of the impact on remittances and resettlement if all former Gurkha soldiers and their dependants were granted equality with their UK equivalents.

The British Government have committed over £172 million in development assistance for Nepal over the next three financial years 2009-10 to 2011-12. This will be spent on supporting the peace process, improving governance, services, growth and jobs and in the fight against climate change.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* reconstruction and *(b)* development projects are being funded in Gaza (i) by his Department, (ii) through the European Union and (iii) through the United Nations; how much funding his Department is providing for projects in Gaza in 2009-10; and how much he plans to provide for such projects in (A) 2010-11 and (B) 2011-12. [278386]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since the start of the current conflict the UK Government have pledged nearly £47 million to help the people of Gaza, of which we have committed over £20 million. A summary of projects supported by this funding is available on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Many of the projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) cover both the West Bank and Gaza and so it is not possible to give figures for Gaza alone. In recent years DFID bilateral funding to the Occupied Palestinian Territories has increased from an average of £15.7 million for financial years 2000-01 to 2006-07 to over £60 million in financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Detailed figures of DFID expenditure are included in the DFID annual report and the Statistics on International Development document. These are available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website.

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which businesses in Gaza have been awarded grants through the Facility for New Market Development; and what assessment he has made of the merits of expanding the scheme. [278637]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since its launch last year, the Facility for New Market Development (FNMD) has awarded grants to 19 individual businesses in Gaza, from a wide range of sectors. A further three grants have been awarded to clusters of businesses. A full list of the businesses that have received grants will be placed in the Library.

FNMD is a demand-led programme, and its expansion is therefore dependent on requests from businesses. Demand from Gaza is expected to rise significantly as soon as restrictions on movement and access are lifted, and the facility stands ready to respond.

River Nile: Film

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Nile Basin documentary film produced by Wild Dog Ltd. with funding from his Department. [277756]

Mr. Thomas: A copy of the Nile Basin Documentary Film will be placed in the Library of the House.

St. Helena: Shipping

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of maintaining the RMS St. Helena service to St. Helena was in each year since 2000; and what the projected cost is for each year to 2020. [260195]

Mr. Michael Foster: We have been advised that it would not be economic to maintain operations of the RMS St. Helena beyond around 2015 or 2016. The following table shows operating costs between 2001-02 and 2007-08.

£

	Total operating cost (including DFID operating subsidy)	Maintenance/repair cost	DFID operating subsidy
2001-02	5,404,060	463,000	1,931,066
2002-03	5,810,900	512,000	1,405,443
2003-04	4,846,200	939,000	1,469,127
2004-05	6,295,280	556,000	2,511,597
2005-06	6,439,830	540,000	2,337,879
2006-07	6,986,200	[1]925,000	3,056,000
2007-08	6,744,000	707,000	2,728,137

[1] Includes dry dock.

We would expect this trend in operating costs and subsidy to continue, with an increase to cover an annual dry dock required to maintain safety certification, and with additional expenditure of about £2.5 million to refurbish the engines and replace essential steelwork.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 10 June 2009

WALES

Dairy Products

10. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will discuss with ministerial colleagues the promotion in England of dairy products produced in Wales. [278183]

Mr. David: UK Government and the Welsh Assembly Government already have a number of successful initiatives promoting the best of Welsh food in the UK and abroad.

Carbon Capture Pilot: Aberthaw

11. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with RWE npower on government assistance for the development of the carbon capture pilot project at Aberthaw; and if he will make a statement. [278184]

Mr. Hain: My predecessor recently met the CEO of RWE npower who updated him about the range of their energy activities in Wales including at Aberthaw.

Welsh Economy

12. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on measures to assist economic recovery in Wales. [278185]

Mr. Hain: I look forward to undertaking the same meetings as my predecessor. Both the UK Government and Welsh Assembly Government are committed to supporting Welsh businesses and households through these challenging times.

14. **David T.C. Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and the Welsh Assembly Government on the state of the Welsh economy. [278187]

Mr. Hain: I look forward to my first meeting with the First Minister on the Welsh economy. I want to focus not just on delivering the help that people need now but on building a stronger economy for the recovery to come.

Draft Legislative Competence Orders

13. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the speed and effectiveness of each stage of the process for considering draft legislative competence orders. [278186]

Mr. David: We reviewed the LCO process last year and will keep it under review to ensure it continues to work effectively.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278756]

Mr. Hain: None.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to the liberalisation of aviation within the EU in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU since 1993. [278402]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Government have not made any assessment of the impact on carbon dioxide emissions attributable to the liberalisation of aviation within the European Union.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what information his Department holds on which airlines provide carbon dioxide emissions information on their air tickets. [278656]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* I am not aware of any specific examples of airlines providing information on their tickets, but some include high level data on their website or in their in-flight magazines. The information is typically the average grammes of carbon dioxide (CO_2) per passenger km on that aircraft or airline rather than on that specific flight. In addition departmental officials have contributed to the development of tools that estimate the emissions for a particular flight both for the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the Government's Act on CO_2 website.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009; [273921]

(2) what car journeys he took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273922]

(3) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273923]

(4) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273924]

Chris Mole: For information in relation to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years. [277642]

Mr. Khan: All Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

As well as working together to tackle issues that affect all Departments and their work, each Government Department is adapting to climate change in its own operations and policies.

In the last two years the Department for Transport's (DfT) work on adaptation has included:

Working closely with Network Rail in designing methodologies to ensure renewal work incorporates increased resilience and that the network can withstand future climate related events.

Establishing a cross-rail industry forum and commissioning research to identify and address challenges to the railway and produce hazard maps highlighting vulnerable areas.

Completing research on adapting materials and techniques in highway works to the changing climate which will be published by the Highways Agency as a guide for local authorities.

The Highways Agency's assessment of how to manage the risks from climate change to its strategic road network. This has already improved drainage and road surface standards to increase resilience.

Ensuring a risk-based approach to adaptation is integrated into the 'New Approach to Transport Appraisal' (NATA)—the framework used to appraise costs and benefits of transport schemes requiring DFT's funding/approval.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277715]

Mr. Khan: It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act coming in to force.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many days on average *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies has taken to pay invoices from suppliers in each month since November 2008. [278912]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is comprised of the Central Department (DfTc) and seven Executive Agencies. The Executive Agencies are Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), Driving Standards Agency (DSA), Highways Agency (HA), Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) and Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA).

The average number of calendar days taken to pay invoices from suppliers in each month since November 2008 is shown as follows. The table excludes figures for VCA which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	DfTc	*DVLA*	*DSA*	*HA*	*MCA*	*VOSA*	*GCDA*
November 2008	37	10	18	22	9	14	23
December 2008	28	11	15	11	11	10	17
January 2009	25	12	22	9	12	13	24
February 2009	15	10	15	10	12	11	19
March 2009	14	12	14	12	7	13	18
April 2009	13	10	10	16	9	10	22
May 2009	10	8	10	9	12	11	17

Global Positioning System

Norman Baker: To ask the Minster of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the safety implications of possible failures of the Global Positioning System. [278636]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Department for Transport has not carried out any assessment of the possible safety implications of a failure of the Global Positioning System (GPS). The vulnerabilities of GPS because of intentional or unintentional interference or because of environmental interference have always made it unwise for any GPS user to rely on it as the only means of radio navigation position fixing. It is customary to use multiple navigation systems for marine and aviation navigation for example.

However, the European Commission has announced plans to prepare a European Radio-Navigation Plan (ERNP), by next year, which will draw up a comprehensive inventory of the vast array of radio-navigation services (satellite and terrestrial)—with the aim of informing future strategy and policy development for all users not just transport. The plan will set out how best to harmonise radio-navigation services and to ensure redundancy and reliability in the use of any mix of navigation systems in support of safety, security, transport, environment and economic policies.

Departmental officials will work with the Commission and other EU member states to develop the emerging strategy and policy.

M1: Nottinghamshire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the hours of work of the contractors carrying out the widening of the M1 motorway between junctions 25 and 28 are; what consideration has been given to carrying out such work on a 24-hour basis; and if he will make a statement. [278718]

Chris Mole: Work generally starts between 6 am and 8 am and finishes between 6 pm and 8 pm, Monday to Friday. These hours have been agreed with the respective Environmental Health Departments of the four local authorities that are affected by the scheme under Section 61 of the Environmental Health Act.

Between summer 2009 and summer 2010, consideration will be given to extending these hours.

Railways: Publicity

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cheadle of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 399W, on railways: mobility, for what reasons his Department has not advertised to promote rail services generically in support of the Government's climate change and social exclusion objectives. [278645]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 8 June 2009]*: Advertising rail services is a matter primarily for the train operating companies. The Government provide information to consumers and businesses on the emissions impact of their journeys and ways that these can be mitigated. Our aim is to help people make informed choices, and whatever their chosen mode of transport, to make it safe, reliable and accessible and to reduce its environmental impact.

Transport: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce the effects on the environment in the Coventry area of *(a)* public, *(b)* road and *(c)* air transport. [278609]

Mr. Khan: The Government announced in December 2008 a series of changes to the Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) which is paid to operators of local bus services in England. Changes have been introduced to ensure that the grant is targeted more towards achieving environmental and climate change objectives. The changes encourage operators of local bus services in and around Coventry (and the rest of England) to achieve greater fuel efficiency by paying a higher rate of grant to any operator which achieves fuel efficiency improvements. In addition, an extra payment of 6p per kilometre will now be paid for all kilometres operated by low carbon emission buses.

The Local Transport Act 2008 requires local transport authorities, including Coventry, to have regard to Government guidance and policies on the environment when formulating their local transport plans and policies. Under European Union legislation, authorities are also required to undertake and monitor a strategic environmental assessment to ensure the environmental impacts of any transport-related investment are fully considered. These requirements ensure consideration is given to initiatives to encourage walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel.

The Government have recently invested over £80 million in major public transport and road schemes in the West Midlands conurbation, including Coventry, to encourage greater bus travel and tackle the problem of congestion and the effects on the environment. These include the Coventry Primelines Bus Network scheme, upgrading the Urban Traffic Control Centre and the first phase of the Red Routes network.

With regard to air transport, the Department for Transport's responsibilities for noise mitigation measures do not extend to airports in the West Midlands. Noise restrictions at Coventry airport may be imposed voluntarily by the airport operator or by the local planning authority through planning conditions or agreements.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities: Finance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding is being provided by his Department to the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities in 2009-10. [277320]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has no plans to provide funding to the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities in 2009-10.

DEFENCE

Departmental Consultants

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many external consultants are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Army in relation to military operations in each area of Afghanistan; [278869]

(2) what the average length of time is of a contract for external consultancy employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Army; and how long on average consultants assigned to theatres of operations spend in theatre. [278870]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The MOD does not, however, routinely employ external consultants in theatre.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department are suspended; how many are suspended on full pay; for how long each has been suspended; and what the reasons are for each such suspension. [270516]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of MOD civil servants on suspension as of 23 April 2009 is 45. MOD policy is that while on suspension individuals will continue to receive full pay and have been suspended for disciplinary reasons in line with agreed policy. The length of time on suspension is:

	Individuals
6 months and under	19
6 months to 1 year	14
1 to 2 years	7
2 to 3 years	0
3 years and above	[1]2

[1] These are due to an ongoing fraud investigations.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the framework for the research to be commissioned on the prevalence of certain conditions among the children of nuclear test veterans; and to what extent related research conducted in other countries will be drawn upon in compiling that framework. [278766]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The working group that I announced in my written ministerial statement of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 6WS, is in the process of being convened. This group will have responsibility for finalising the details of the proposed research projects. It is therefore not possible to provide an answer to these questions at this time. However, I will ensure that my hon. Friend is kept informed of developments.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association request for recognition for nuclear test veterans; and when he expects to make a decision on that request. [278761]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence is not aware of a specific request for recognition from British Nuclear Test Veterans. The Government do, however, continue to recognise and be grateful to all the servicemen who participated in the nuclear testing programme. Their contribution ensured that the UK was equipped with an appropriate nuclear deterrent during the cold war which, thankfully, we never needed to use.

The Ministry of Defence is reviewing the judgment handed down in the High Court on 5 June and will make a statement at a future date.

Ex-servicemen: Suicide

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of research commissioned by his Department on the incidence of suicide among former service personnel. [278846]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD commissioned research from Manchester University to investigate the level of suicide among those leaving the UK armed forces over the period 1996 to 2005, and to make comparisons with matched personnel remaining in service and the general population. This work was published in the peer reviewed journal, Public Library of Science Medicine in March 2009. For the first time, the study linked databases of discharged personnel and the national database of suicide and undetermined deaths. The results showed that overall rates of suicide of those who left were little different from the equivalent serving or civilian general populations. There was an increased risk for young men who left the armed forces after a short period of service.

Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the repair work to the UK vessel occasioned by the collision between French and British ballistic missile submarines will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [278040]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* I can confirm that HMS Vanguard has returned to operational service following repair work at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of plaice stocks in the Irish Sea. [278893]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The most recent estimate of the plaice stock in the Irish sea (Area VIIa) was given by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in July 2008. It can be found on the ICES website:

http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2008/2008/ple-iris.pdf

At the time, the Spawning Stock Biomass was estimated to reach 9,720 tonnes in 2009 and the stock was considered to be at full reproductive capacity and harvested sustainably. I expect to receive an update on that advice in the coming weeks.

Fishing Vessels

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fishing vessels of under 10 metres which fished in the Irish sea have been decommissioned in each year since 2002. [278887]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No fishing vessels of 10 metre and under in length based in ports in the Irish sea have been decommissioned since 2002.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which local authorities are encouraging households and businesses to take up property flood resistance and resilience measures. [277441]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has made no formal assessment of the extent to which local authorities are encouraging households and businesses to take up property flood resistance and resilience measures. However, the household resilience grant scheme, announced by the Secretary of State in December 2008, has raised the profile of property-level flood risk mitigation initiatives as indicated by the 166 applications for the grant in the first round, and over 170 expressions of interest in submitting applications for the second round. Whether successful or not, we will be encouraging local authorities to publicise the merits of property-level initiatives using material that is already available, much of it funded by the Government.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to increase the minimum amount of water that water supply companies are required to provide through emergency contingency arrangements in the event of normal supplies being contaminated by flooding. [278296]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Sir Michael Pitt's report on lessons learned from the 2007 floods included the recommendation that DEFRA should amend emergency regulations to increase the minimum amount of water to be provided in an emergency, in order to reflect reasonable needs during a longer-term loss of mains supply.

The Government's response, published on 17 December, supported changes in response to this, and indeed supported all Sir Michael's recommendations.

Discussions have taken place with the water sector, the Drinking Water Inspectorate, the Health Protection Agency, the Consumer Council for Water, Ofwat and the Welsh Assembly Government, and we expect to make an announcement shortly.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to prevent automatic connection of surface water drainage facilities to new developments since the publication of the Pitt Report on flooding. [278325]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Amending the ability automatically to connect surface water drainage from premises to the public sewerage system would encourage the use of sustainable drainage systems. This will provide increased capacity in public sewers and mimic natural drainage.

The draft Flood and Water Management Bill, published on 21 April 2009, includes provision for the amendment of section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to require sustainable drainage techniques to have been applied in new developments or redevelopments before any connection to the public sewer may be made.

Inland Waterways

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure *(a)* British Waterways and *(b)* the Environment Agency has made on the maintenance and development of navigational infrastructure in the last five years; and how many such structures owned by each organisation are classified as at risk. [277812]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In the last five years, British Waterways has spent approximately £650 million on its core waterways and major works, plus national restoration. Expenditure by the Environment Agency was in the order of £66 million on the replacement, maintenance and improvement of its navigational assets.

British Waterways has 153 structures considered 'at risk' based on those principal assets classified as D and E with a significant consequence of failure. The Environment Agency has 170 structures considered 'at risk' based on those assets which are not in their 'required condition'.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has allocated to *(a)* British Waterways and *(b)* the Environment Agency as grant in aid for 2010-11. [277814]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Budget decisions are being considered by Ministers and will be notified to chief executives of the Environment Agency and British Waterways very shortly.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many outstanding projects for maintenance works on waterways *(a)* British Waterways and *(b)* the Environment Agency had in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of the cost to each organisation of clearing the backlog of projects; and if he will make a statement. [278291]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways manages its maintenance programme using a risk-based approach in order to ensure that its network remains in a reasonable and safe condition. British Waterways estimates that it would cost around £200 million to remove a backlog of maintenance to both principal and non-principal assets. In 2004, British Waterways eliminated its backlog of safety related arrears.

In 2004, the Environment Agency estimated the backlog of assets that needed to be brought to required condition and so began a £60 million programme through to the end of 2010-11.

The following table shows the number of assets brought back into required condition by the agency over the last five years.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Actual percentage of assets in required condition	69	82	85	89	90
Number of assets to be brought to required condition	226	131	109	80	73
Number of assets brought to required condition	—	95	22	29	7

However, more of the agency's navigation assets have fallen below required condition since 2004 as it has not had the funding needed to maintain them in a steady state. The agency currently estimates that it will cost £71 million to address all of the 2004 assets and the additional backlog. Up until March 2009, the agency spent £40.5 million on this programme. A further £9.5 million has been allocated for 2009-10, with £21 million remaining thereafter. The cost of addressing the remaining backlog is currently under review.

Pesticides

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what safety testing arrangements are required for adjuvants and other permitted additives in plant protection products; and if he will make a statement; [278562]

(2) whether the approval process for new plant protection products requires applicants to provide safety data on each component of new formulations; and if he will make a statement; [278563]

(3) what adjuvants are permitted for use in plant protection products in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [278564]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Plant protection products are subject to a rigorous, safety based, system of regulation. Council Directive 91/414/EEC established a harmonised framework for the authorisation of plant protection products in Europe. There is a two tier system with active ingredients being registered at community level and products containing these ingredients being registered at national level, but in accordance with common rules.

The directive provides detailed rules as to what data should be supplied for formulated plant protection products (Annex III). Guidance for member states as to how to evaluate these data and reach decisions is provided in annex VI to the directive.

The data required (on the formulation, including active ingredient and co-formulants), and subsequent regulatory risk assessments, for plant protection products cover issues such as physical and chemical properties; efficacy; toxicology; operator, worker and bystander (including resident) exposure; residues and consumer exposure; environmental exposure; and the risk to wildlife.

Full details of these requirements can be found in Directive 91/414/EEC. A copy of the directive (including annexes III and VI) is available on the website of the Health and Safety Directorate's Chemicals Regulation Directorate at:

http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/applicant_advice.asp?id=645

Plant protection products and their active ingredients are evaluated in the light of current scientific and technical knowledge based on the appraisal of a dossier supplied by the applicant. Each scientific evaluation will be specific to the formulation and use for which approval is being sought. Each case is treated on its individual merits there being no list of permitted co-formulants in pesticide formulations. Co-formulants with unacceptable toxicological properties would be identified in the overall toxicity of the formulation and would result in either a more restrictive level of classification or refusal for use as a plant protection product.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which UK-licensed plant protection products contain glyphosate as the active ingredient; and which adjuvants and other additives there are in each such product. [278565]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Excepting the identity and amount of active ingredient, and the type of formulation, the formulation details of plant protection products, including adjuvants and other co-formulants, are commercially confidentiality and cannot be released.

At present there are 216 UK-licensed plant protecti
products which contain glyphosate as the active ingredie
The names of these are listed along with their registrati
numbers:

	Product
M13390	Accelerate
M14254	Acomac
M12677	Acrion
M14131	Amega Duo
M13358	Amega Duo
M13000	Amenity Glyphosate 360
M14238	Asda Concentrated Glyphosate WeedKiller with Systemic Action
M13096	Asda Systemic Path and Patio WeedKiller Spray
M13088	Asda Systemic Weed Killer Spray
M11118	Asteroid
M13915	Asteroid BioCare
M12666	Azural
M14361	Azural
M10379	B&Q Complete Weed Killer
M14237	B&Q Concentrated Glyphosate WeedKiller with Systemic Action
M14205	B&Q Value Weed Killer
M12714	Barclay Barbarian
M12659	Barclay Gallup 360
M13250	Barclay Gallup Amenity
M12660	Barclay Gallup Biograde 360
M12716	Barclay Gallup Biograde Amenity
M12661	Barclay Gallup Hi-Aktiv
M12715	Barclay Garryowen
M13683	[illegible]ds and Borders Spot Weeder
M13236	Bramble Killer Ultra
M12951	Buggy XTG
M12586	CDA Vanquish Biactive
M14107	Charger
M14269	Charger B
M14216	Charger C
M12913	Cleancrop Hoedown
M13049	Cleancrop Tungsten
M12678	Clinic
M14040	Clinic Ace
M12980	Clinic Ace
M13703	Clinic RTU
M13217	Clipper
M12825	Complete WeedKiller
M12826	Complete WeedKiller Concentrate
M13032	Credit
M14066	Credit DST
M13822	Credit DST
M13150	Deep Root Path and Patio WeedKiller 2
M13845	Deep Root Ultra
M13239	Deep Root Ultra Path and Patio Killer
M12856	Discman Biograde
M14158	Doff Concentrated Glyphosate WeedKiller with Systemic action
M13094	Doff knockdown Systemic Path and Patio
M13097	Doff knockdown Systemic WeedKiller
M12581	Doff Knockdown WeedKiller
M12560	Doff Knockdown WeedKiller Spray
M14243	Doff tough Weeds and brushwood Killer
M12720	Dow AgroSciences Glyphosate 360
M13786	Elimin8
M10569	Envision

	Product
M12146	Fast Action Roundup ready-to-use WeedKiller
M14481	Fast Action Roundup ready-to-use WeedKiller
M14012	Fast Action Roundup XL
M14485	Fast Action Roundup XL
M12759	First Line
M13095	Focus Systemic Path and Patio WeedKiller Spray
M13099	Focus Systemic WeedKiller Spray
M12845	Gallup Biograde WeedKiller RTU
M12898	Gallup Hi-Aktiv Amenity
M13233	Gem Glyphosate Weed and Root WeedKiller
M12990	Glister
M12679	Glydate
M14006	Glyder360
M13940	Glyfo-TDI
M10995	Glyfos
M12499	Glyfos Care Concentrate
M12498	Glyfos Care RTU
M13054	Glyfos Dakar
M13147	Glyfos Dakar pro
M14297	Glyfosat 36
M12994	Glymark
M13870	Glymark
M13105	Glyper
M14383	Glyper
M13882	Glypho-Rapid 450
M12668	Glyphogan
M12827	Glyphosate
M12669	Glyphosate 360
M12680	Glyphosate 360
M12828	Glyphosate ready-to-use
M13013	Glyphosate Spot Weeder
M12063	Glyphosate Systemic WeedKiller
M12065	Glyphosate Systemic WeedKiller Concentrate
M13787	Glypoo
M14444	GlyWeed
M12718	Greenaway GLY-490
M14001	Ground Clear
M13518	Growing Success Bramble Killer 2
M12717	Habitat
M12922	Hilite
M13871	Hilite
M13237	Instore Glyphosate WeedKiller
M13293	Instore Home and Garden Glyphosate WeedKiller
M10993	Kernel
M12009	KN540
M13977	Landgold Glyphosate 360
M14110	Long Lasting Ground Clear
M11041	Manifest
M12664	Mon 79376
M12663	Mon 79545
M12582	Mon 79632
M13907	Nomix Blade
M12370	Nomix Conqueror
M13420	Nomix Dual
M12921	Nomix G
M13872	Nomix G
M12920	Nomix Nova
M13873	Nomix Nova
M12993	Nomix Revenge
M13874	Nomix Revenge
M12699	Nufosate
M13794	Nufosate Ace
M13195	Path WeedKiller
M13388	Path WeedKiller Concentrate
M12599	PathClear Easymix
M12896	PathClear Gun! Season Long
M14137	PathClear Gun! WeedKiller
M12900	PathClear Season Long
M12476	PathClear Ultra
M12557	PathClear Ultra Gun!
M14143	PathClear WeedKiller LC
M14138	PathClear WeedKiller PC
M13684	Paths and Patios Spot Weeder
M12173	Pistol
M12733	Pontil 360
M14322	Pontil 360
M12756	Preline
M12757	Peline Plus
M13670	Proliance Quattro
M12632	Rambo Bio
M12633	Rambo Bio RTU
M13676	Resolva 24h
M13700	Resolva 24h
M13671	Resolva 24h Concentrate
M13699	Resolva 24h Concentrate
M12681	Romany
M14104	Rosate 36
M14459	Rosate 36
M12645	Roundup
M12772	Roundup Ace
M12672	Roundup Amenity
M10320	Roundup Biactive
M13409	Roundup Biactive 3G
M12646	Roundup Biactive Dry
M12945	Roundup Energy
M12526	Roundup Express
M14013	Roundup Fast action Path and Drive WeedKiller
M14483	Roundup Fast action Path and Drive WeedKiller
M12915	Roundup GC
M10975	Roundup Gold
M12731	Roundup Greenscape
M12866	Roundup Klik
M12952	Roundup Max
M13989	Roundup Metro
M14484	Roundup Path and Drive
M12337	Roundup Path and Drive
M14198	Roundup Path and Drive Liquid Concentrate
M10330	Roundup Pro Biactive
M11907	Roundup-Pro-Green
M12778	Roundup ProBiactive 450
M12953	Roundup Provide
M12671	Roundup Rail
M13850	Roundup Tree Stump and Root Killer
M12774	Roundup Ultimate
M13081	Roundup Ultimate
M08172	Roundup Ultra 3000
M12732	Roundup Ultra ST
M14133	Routeone Glyphosate 360
M14458	Routeone Glyphosate 360
M13889	Routeone Rosate 36
M13659	Routeone Rosate 360
M13661	Routeone Rosate 360
M12674	Samurai
M12673	Scorpion

	Product
M12968	Sip31519RTU
M14505	Slingshot
M12675	Stacato
M13079	Statis
M12923	Stirrup
M13875	Stirrup
M14221	Super Strength Glyphosate
M13151	Tesco complete WeedKiller Spray
M13848	Tesco Glyphosate Concentrated WeedKiller
M13092	Tesco Systemic Path and Patio WeedKiller Spray
M13091	Tesco Systemic WeedKiller Spray
M14102	Thunderbolt
M10608	Touchdown quattro
M14226	Tree Stump Killer
M12897	Trustee Amenity
M12662	Trustee Elite
M12775	TumbleWeed
M12729	TumbleWeed pro-active
M12887	TumbleWeed ready to use
M12932	Typhoon 360
M12780	UKS 183b
M13139	Weed Buster
M13218	Weed Buster
M13701	Weed Buster Concentrate
M13702	Weed Buster Concentrate
M13791	Weed Easy
M14384	Weed Easy
M13498	WeedBuster Super Concentrate
M13499	WeedBuster Super Concentrate
M13238	Weedfree RTU
M13669	[illegible]edwallop
M14235	Wilko Concentrated Glyphosate WeedKiller with Systemic action
M13235	Wilko Glyphosate Killer
M13292	Wilko Glyphosate WeedKiller RTU
M13089	Wilko Systemic Complete WeedKiller Spray
M13093	Wilko Systemic Path and Patio WeedKiller Spray
M13819	Woolworths Path and Patio WeedKiller Spray

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what safety testing procedures apply to the active ingredients of plant protection products prior to such products obtaining approval for commercial use. [278566]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Plant protection products are subject to a rigorous, safety based, system of regulation. Council Directive 91/414/EEC established a harmonised framework for the authorisation of plant protection products in Europe. There is a two tier system with active ingredients being registered at community level and products containing these ingredients being registered at national level, but in accordance with common rules.

The directive includes detailed rules as to what data should be supplied for active ingredients (annex II). Guidance for member states as to how to evaluate these data and reach decisions is provided in annex VI to the directive.

The data required, and subsequent regulatory risk assessments, cover such issues as physical and chemical properties; toxicology; impurities and metabolites; operator, worker and bystander (including resident) exposure; residues and consumer exposure; environmental exposure; and the risk to wildlife.

Full details of these requirements can be found in Directive 91/414/EEC. A copy of the directive (including annexes II and VI) is available on the website of the Health and Safety Directorate's Chemicals Regulation Directorate at:

http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/applicant_advice.asp?id=645

Seismic Monitoring: Seas and Oceans

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an assessment of the likely effects of underwater seismic surveying using seismic cannons on shellfish and other commercial fish stocks. [278235]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 8 June 2009]*: The UK is aware of the potential effects of underwater seismic activity on marine life and we are, and will continue to assess the impacts that these activities may have an all marine organisms, including shellfish and other commercial fish stocks. The UK is part of The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR convention) and currently work is being undertaken by an expert group within OSPAR on the effects of underwater sound on marine life, with findings to be published very soon.

There is also a significant fund created by the Joint Industry Programme of the oil and gas industry to support further research into this issue.

Squirrels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated to the Red Squirrel Protection Partnership in each of the last five years. [278125]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In June 2006, the Red Squirrel Protection Partnership was awarded a three-year rural enterprise scheme grant totalling £148,000 to support the control of grey squirrels for the purpose of protecting red squirrel populations.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect on the red squirrel population of changes in the levels of the grey squirrel population. [278126]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The interaction between the red and grey squirrel is not straightforward. They can live in the same area for up to 15 years, but in the end, the greys displace the reds. Where greys carry Squirrelpox virus, they can displace the reds within a very short period of time as the virus is normally fatal to reds while the greys remain unaffected.

Our policy in England is to protect the remaining red squirrel populations that appear to have the best chance of survival. These include the populations on the Isle of Wight and Poole Harbour Islands where no grey squirrels are present and in the 17 designated red squirrel reserves in northern England. These have associated buffer zones where the culling of grey squirrels is actively encouraged. The Forestry Commission and Natural England recognise the importance of monitoring red and grey squirrel populations in these areas.

Wildlife: South East

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of new housing developments on wildlife corridors in the South East. [278115]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are no formal recognised wildlife corridors in the south-east of England, therefore no assessment of corridors as such has been made. However, the potential impact of housing developments on biodiversity would need to be carried out in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 9 on Biodiversity and Geological Conservation. In addition local planning authorities must have regard to biodiversity in line with duties imposed by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the PentiP computer system to be delivered; and what recent estimate he has made of the cost of delivering and implementing the system. [278617]

Mr. Hanson: The PentiP procurement exercise is now in its concluding stage and the final cost will not be known until the contract has been awarded. The current expectation is that the total cost of designing, developing and implementing PentiP will be in line with the figure of £19.3 million, as per the previous answer provided on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2328W.

It is planned that the contract for the delivery of PentiP will be awarded in June 2009. Implementation of PentiP in all police forces in England and Wales will be completed by September 2011.

DNA: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 601-02W, on genetics: databases, into what category of offence each record identified on the Police National Computer fell. [271976]

Alan Johnson: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electricity

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations his Department has received from *(a)* the Association of Electricity Producers and *(b)* Drax Power Limited since 2005. [276760]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 21 May 2009]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 816W.

Fixated Threat Assessment Centre

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what floor area of office space is *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre. [274869]

Mr. Hanson: The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre does not own or lease any office space. Its office is situated in a building leased by the Metropolitan Police Service. The floor area is around 100 sq mm.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals detained by the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre have subsequently been *(a)* given custodial sentences and *(b)* detained in psychiatric hospitals. [274870]

Mr. Hanson: The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC) does not detain people. All assessments and decisions regarding a person's treatment and any possible detention under the Mental Health Act are made by local health services.

Since 2006, when FTAC began operation, 246 people have been detained under the Mental Health Act following a referral from FTAC and a subsequent decision by local health services. No individual has received a custodial sentence as a result of FTAC involvement.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been detained by the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre in each of the last three years; and what the average length of time was for an individual to be *(a)* examined by a registered medical practitioner and *(b)* interviewed by an approved social worker in each such year. [274871]

Mr. Hanson: The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC) does not detain individuals as a routine part of its work. Staff have assisted in conveying 27 people to a "place of safety" under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 since FTAC began operation in October 2006.

When FTAC identifies a person as being in need of mental health care, it alerts their general practitioner and local psychiatric services, which then provide whatever appropriate help in the community, or in hospital, they consider necessary, using appropriate existing legislation. These local services operate independently of FTAC and carry responsibility for any decisions made on patient care and treatment, including whether or not to detain the patient.

As these assessments are carried out without FTAC involvement, no data about them are held.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre has made use of police powers under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. [274872]

Mr. Hanson: Since it began operation in October 2006, police officers working in the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre have made use of powers under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 27 times.

FTAC police officers, like all police officers, may make use of their general police powers under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to take a person who appears to be suffering from mental disorder, and in immediate need of care or control, to a place of safety i.e. a psychiatric hospital. When people are removed to hospital under section 136, they are examined by a registered medical practitioner and interviewed by an approved social worker, not associated with FTAC, in order to make any necessary arrangements for their treatment or care.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* psychiatric nurses, *(c)* psychiatrists and *(d)* psychologists were employed by the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre in each year since it was established. [274873]

Mr. Hanson: The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre was established in October 2006, and its staffing has remained at a constant level since then:

(a) 10 police officers, comprising one detective chief inspector, one detective inspector, one detective sergeant, six police constables and one police support worker;

(b) Three forensic community mental health nurses;

(c) 0.8 whole time equivalent consultant forensic psychiatrist;

(d) 0.5 whole time equivalent forensic psychologist.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the establishment of the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre; and what its running costs have been in each year since its establishment. [274960]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 12 May 2009]:* The Fixated Threat Assessment Centre was established in October 2006. Over the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08, the Home Office provided a total of £507,262.21 as a contribution to the start-up and establishment of FTAC. Ongoing running costs are now met in part by the Department of Health, and in part by the Metropolitan Police Service, through the Police Grant.

War Crimes Act 1991

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what files her Department holds on *(a)* the War Crimes Bill of (i) 1989-90 Session and (ii) 1990-91 Session and *(b)* the War Crimes Act 1991; and if she will make a statement. [277835]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for the formulation of the criminal law, including the offences in the War Crimes Act 1991, moved from the Home Office to the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007. We have not, in the time available, been able to retrieve and review those files and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Austria: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on anti-Semitism in Austria; and if he will make a statement. [278237]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Vienna is in contact with non-governmental organisations, community groups and Government representatives and we will continue to monitor anti-Semitism in Austria.

The Government condemn anti-Semitism whenever and wherever it occurs.

Austria's Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism (BVT) monitors the occurrence of anti-Semitic incidents in Austria. The most recent figures available on anti-Semitic incidents in Austria are from the BVT's 2008 report. These show that in 2007 there were 343 right-wing extreme, xenophobic/racist and anti-Semitic incidents (those reported to the police by individuals or organisations) of which, 15 were exclusively classified as anti-Semitic. In 2006, there were 240 incidents, of which, eight were classified as anti-Semitic. Figures for 2008 are due for publication shortly.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of an attack on Holocaust survivors in Ebensee, Austria on 9 May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [278238]

Chris Bryant: I am aware of reports of the incident in Ebensee in Austria on 9 May 2009, in which several youths were alleged to have shouted Nazi slogans and fired plastic bullets at visitors to a memorial service for Holocaust victims. Five youths aged between 14 and 16 were arrested and subsequently released on bail. Their cases are being processed by public prosecutors. We continue to monitor these issues and wholly deprecate all anti-Semitic attacks.

Bangladesh

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of India on the likely effect of the planned Tipaimukh Dam on the Bangladeshi environment. [278268]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This project is a matter between the Indian and Bangladeshi governments. We hope it can be addressed in the interests of both countries and with full regard for the environment.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many financial contractors and consultants were engaged by his Department's Finance Directorate in the financial year 2007-08; in what capacity each was retained; and what the cost to his Department of their services was. [278644]

David Miliband: A total of £4.38 million was spent by Finance Directorate on contractors and consultants in the financial year 2007-08. However, as Finance Directorate engages a wide range of consultants for different periods and varying tasks (including management and IT), providing a breakdown of numbers and capacity of consultants/contractors can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what procedures govern the receipt by his Department's envoys of funding for their activities from *(a)* non-governmental agencies and *(b)* foreign governments. [278473]

Chris Bryant: We have a service level agreement for non-governmental agencies to recover the costs incurred for services we provide overseas. This is based on a consistent charging framework across all posts. For foreign governments, we have a memorandum of understanding to recover platform costs (accommodation and security) and this is done through quarterly invoices.

If a project is being co-funded, the implementer of the project will invoice each of the funding agencies for the amount that has been agreed. As a check and balance to ensure implementers do not try to bid to different agencies as well as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for money for the same activities, we specifically ask during the concept and preparation of full bid phase whether

> "funding for this project has been sought from other donors, private institutions or co-funding with the host government".

Hezbollah

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of statements by Hezbollah's leadership that the group will never recognise Israel; and if he will make a statement. [277763]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The only sustainable solution to the challenges facing Lebanon and the conflict in the Middle East is full engagement in democratic politics and the peace process. The Government continue to believe that Hezbollah should disarm, reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese and regional politics, in line with UN Security Council resolutions. This includes the issue of the Middle East Peace Process, where we call on all parties to share the vision of two states—Israel and Palestine—living together in peace and security.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 March 2009 from the hon. Member for Woking on his constituent Mr. Samad. [274331]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 11 May 2009]*: This letter was transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions who are currently dealing with the issues raised by Mr. Samad and have informed us they aim to provide a response by 23 June 2009.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of allegations that British intelligence sources are providing information to Somali pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden; and if he will make a statement. [276001]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of recent press reports, upon which we assume your question is based and which originate in a speculative Spanish radio report, citing allegation that Somali pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden have been receiving information from shipping consultants in London.

The allegations contained in the original report and subsequent press reporting are unsubstantiated and unfounded.

USA

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions his predecessor met senior members of the US administration in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002 and *(c)* 2003. [274603]

David Miliband: The then Foreign Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) met with senior members of the US Administration between June 2001 and December 2003 on a number of occasions. These included the then Secretary of State, Colin Powell in Washington, both in July and October 2001, and also at the UN General Assembly in November 2001, and the then Vice President, Dick Cheney, in Washington, in February 2002 and in London in March 2002.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Association: Visits Abroad

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what records the Commission holds on the *(a)* number of and *(b)* cost to the public purse of overseas visits made by hon. Members as part of delegations of (i) the UK branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and (ii) the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union since the start of the 2008-09 financial year. [278667]

Nick Harvey: Both organisations receive funding from a number of sources which includes grant in aid paid from the House of Commons Administration Estimate. They have informed me that the total costs incurred by them in funding delegations undertaken by hon. Members since the start of 2008-09 have been:

Number of delegations	*Total cost (£)*
UK Branch Commonwealth Parliamentary Association	
27	380,537
British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union	
19	358,535

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Pay

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 20 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1352W, on departmental reorganisation, what estimate she has made of the change in staffing costs consequent on the reorganisation of her Department's Communications Directorate and the ensuing change in staff numbers. [271912]

Angela E. Smith: Based on a current estimate of staff salaries the overall pay costs for Cabinet Office communications are likely to reduce but any savings will be dependent upon the levels of salary finally agreed for the new staff appointed.

Government Departments: Hotels

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will consider the merits of instructing Government Departments to use budget hotel accommodation for the purposes of overnight stays on official business by Ministers and civil servants. [277901]

Angela E. Smith: Ministers and civil servants are required under the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" to make the most efficient and cost effective travel arrangements.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Benefits

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effects on expenditure on social care of measures which have been introduced to enable older people to live independently at home through housing adaptations since 2005. [278156]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter which is best demonstrated locally through the work of agencies and local authorities via local strategic partnerships.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on event management services in each of the last three years; and whether any such services were supplied by external providers. [274846]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP manages its requirements for a wide range of marketing and publicity services through a number of frameworks set up in 2006 through open and fair competition under EU rules comprised of external suppliers.

There are five frameworks in place to cover event management services, namely:

	Suppliers
Lot 1: Conference and Event Management	5
Lot 2: Exhibition Services	5
Lot 3: Storage and Exhibition Installation	9
Lot 4: Display Stand Provision	6
Lot 5: Exhibition Panels	6

The spend across these five frameworks in each of the last three years was as follows:

		£ million
	Lot 1	Lots 2 to 5
2006-07	0.8	0.07
2007-08	1.57	0.34
2008-09	2.06	0.53

The data for lots 2 to 5 are consolidated on our systems and it would incur disproportionate cost to review all the individual transactions and separate them out as some suppliers are approved for more than one lot.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expenditure under what budgetary headings was incurred by her Department in relation to the National Employment Partnership meeting held on 11 February 2009. [270563]

Jonathan Shaw: No costs were incurred by my Department.

JUSTICE

Crimes of Violence: Convictions

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of (i) offences of violence against the person and (ii) sexual offences in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [278343]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts by selected offence groups in England and Wales, for the years 1998 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 significantly modernised and strengthened the laws on sexual offences in England and Wales to provide extra protection to children from sexual exploitation. This makes direct comparisons with previous legislation very difficult. Many new offences created by the Act will not have a direct equivalent under the old legislation.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for sexual offences and violence against the person in England and Wales, 1998 to 2007[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against		Found guilty	
	Sexual offences[4,5]	*Violence against the person*[6]	*Sexual offences*[4,5]	*Violence against the person*[6]
1998	7,763	75,243	4,567	37,050
1999	7,817	75,315	4,304	35,700
2000[7]	7,141	74,227	3,845	34,679
2001	8,424	76,706	4,043	35,298
2002	9,102	78,446	4,384	37,708
2003	9,121	79,612	4,355	38,036
2004	9,579	71,752	4,785	39,149
2005	9,711	68,172	4,808	40,929
2006	9,074	64,763	4,901	41,864
2007	8,634	61,056	5,075	41,951

[1] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Sexual offences and Violence against the person include 'Indictable only' and 'triable-either way offences'. 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown court. 'Triable-either-way offences' may be tried either the Crown court or at magistrates courts. The offence groups do not include summary offences.

[3] Every effort Is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The Sexual Offences type includes data for the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2004. The Sexual Offences Act 2003 represented a major overhaul of the law and so comparisons with old offending regimes can be misleading.

[5] *Sexual Offences offence type includes the following offences:*

Buggery
Sexual Assault on a Male
Indecency between Males
Rape of a Female
Rape of a Male
Sexual Assault on a Female
Sexual Activity with child under 13
Sexual Activity with child under 16
Familial Sexual Offences (Incest)
Exploitation of Prostitution
Abduction
Bigamy
Soliciting of women by Men
Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography
Trafficking for sexual exploitation
Abuse of trust—sexual offences
Gross Indecency with Children
Miscellaneous sexual offences

[6] *Violence against the person offence type includes the following offence classes:*

Murder
Attempted Murder
Threat or Conspiracy to Murder
Manslaughter
Infenticide
Child Destruction
Causing Death by Dangerous Driving
Manslaughter Due to Diminished Responsibility
Causing Death by Careless Driving when under the Influence of Drink or Drugs
Causing Death of a child or vulnerable person
Wounding or other act Endangering Life
Endangering Railway Passenger
Endangering Life at Sea
Malicious Wounding etc.
Cruelty to or Neglect of Children
Abandoning Child aged under Two Years
Child Abduction
Procuring Illegal Abortion
Concealment of Birth
Causing Death by Aggravated Vehicle Taking

[7] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
OCJR—E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice

Debts: Court Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* third party debt, *(b)* interim charging and *(c)* final charging orders were made by courts in each year between 1996 and 2003; [278350]

(2) how many charging orders in relation to credit card debt have been issued since 1997-98. [278353]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the number of interim and final third party debt orders and charging orders made in the county courts of England and Wales in each year between 1996 and 2003.

Figures on the number of charging orders relating to credit card debt are not held centrally. This is because the administrative computer systems used in the county courts do not separately identify cases relating to credit card debt. While the relevant cases will be logged on the system, they cannot be distinguished from other types.

To obtain the required information would require the inspection of individual case files, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Number of interim and final third party debt orders and charging orders made in the county courts of England and Wales, 1996 to 2003

	Third party debt orders[1]		Charging orders[2]	
	Interim	Final	Interim	Final
1996	4,860	2,800	16,753	13,261
1997	4,327	2,459	15,044	11,422
1998	3,936	1,658	15,056	10,652
1999	4,141	1,233	14,643	9,749
2000	3,857	1,033	16,751	9,689
2001	4,072	1,396	22,769	15,487
2002	5,160	1,540	29,971	21,408
2003	5,873	1,754	34,796	25,217

[1] Third party debt orders secure payment by freezing and then seizing money owed or payable by a third party to a debtor.

[2] Charging orders obtain security for the payment against a property owned by the debtor.

Source:

HMCS Caseman system (2000-03) and manual returns (1996-99).

Debts: Enforcement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the report on his Department's scoping exercise undertaken in relation to the enforcement provisions of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. [278357]

Bridget Prentice: I outlined on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 854W, that the scoping exercise involved a series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss implementation and that a statement would be made following the conclusion of a reassessment of the enforcement provisions contained within the Act.

On 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 46-47WS, I announced measures to strengthen regulation of the enforcement industry and clarify the rights, responsibilities and legal limits of debtors, creditors and bailiffs following the completion of the reassessment.

Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what data the Land Registry gather on vacant *(a)* commercial and *(b)* industrial property. [278366]

Mr. Wills: The Land Registry does not gather any data relating to vacant properties.

Family Proceedings

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has paid Ernst and Young to carry out research into family advocacy services in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278481]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) commissioned the research by Ernst and Young on the family advocacy market to provide additional data for the impact assessment on the effect of our proposed new legal aid payment arrangements for advocacy work from 2010. Following a public tendering exercise the LSC agreed to pay Ernst and Young £65,035 (inclusive of VAT) for this research. The LSC has continued discussions with stakeholders, since the consultation on "Family legal aid funding from 2010" closed and has agreed to share the outcome of the Ernst and Young research with a number of stakeholders representing legal service providers when it becomes available in the next few weeks.

Fraud and Forgery: Police Cautions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cautions were issued for offences relating to fraud and forgery in each year since 1997. [278415]

Maria Eagle: The number of offenders issued with a caution for offences relating to fraud and forgery, in England and Wales, for the years 1997 to 2007 (latest data available) is shown in the following table.

The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Caution data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of offenders issued with a caution for selected offences relating to fraud and forgery[1], in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[2, 3, 4, 5]

	Cautions
1997	7,156
1998	7,402
1999	7,205
2000	6,180
2001	5,764
2002	5,335
2003	5,484
2004	6,036
2005	6,936
2006	8,024
2007	8,587

[1] Fraud and forgery includes the following offence classes:
Fraud by Company Director etc.
False Accounting
Other Fraud
Bankruptcy Offence
Forgery etc. of Drug Prescription
Other Forgery etc.

[2] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time, the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] The offence group of fraud and forgery includes 'indictable only' and 'triable-either-way offences', it does not include summary offences. 'Indictable only' are the most serious breaches of the criminal law and must be dealt with at the Crown court. 'Triable-either-way offences' may be tried at either the Crown court or at magistrates courts.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, It is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] From 1 June 2000, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.

Source:

OCJR, E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit, Ministry of Justice.

Housing: Sales

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average house sale price recorded by the Land Registry was in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area in England in (i) April 1991, (ii) May 1997 and (iii) the most recent period for which figures are available. [278355]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry has only collected these data since 1995. The figures requested are collated in quarterly periods; the tables will be placed in the Library of the House to cover March 1997 to June 1997 and January 2009 to March 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residential property transactions with a purchase price between £125,000 and £175,000 have been recorded by the Land Registry as being completed since the temporary increase in the stamp duty threshold. [278356]

Mr. Wills: For the period from September 2008 to the end of April 2009, 71,280 properties with a purchase price between £125,000 and £175,000 were sold in England and Wales.

Land Registry

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Land Registry is on course to meet its target of producing a complete Land Register for England and Wales by 2012. [278351]

Mr. Wills: Strategic Objective 3 of the Land Registry's 10 Year strategic plan in 2002 was to complete the registration of all remaining unregistered titles by 2012. Land Registry strived to achieve the objective, making significant progress each year, but recognised that the achievement of a complete land register required compulsion, which would be unpopular and require primary legislation. As a result, Land Registry no longer has a target to produce a complete Land Register by 2012. Instead, it aims to create a comprehensive Land Register as soon as possible and has annual targets. The KPI for 2008-09 was to register 325,000 hectares of voluntary registrations, which was exceeded. The total percentage of England and Wales that is now registered is around 70 per cent.

Land Registry: Fraud

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of instances of property fraud involving fraudulent applications to the Land Registry for changes of address in the last 12 months. [278352]

Mr. Wills: It has taken longer than expected to collate the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this is available.

Legal Aid

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of cases which attracted legal aid were criminal cases in the most recent period for which figures are available. [278408]

Bridget Prentice: In 2007-08 there were 2,502,500 acts of assistance of which 1,502,100 were for criminal legal aid. Final figures for 2008-09 are not yet available. It must be noted that some individuals may have received more than one act of assistance during the year and some acts of assistance may help more than one person.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of cases which attracted legal aid were *(a)* housing and welfare and *(b)* human rights cases in the latest period for which figures are available. [278409]

Bridget Prentice: For civil legal aid, in controlled work (advice and assistance), of 807,460 new matters started, 253,850 were for housing and welfare benefits. For licensed work (representation), of 137,960 certificates granted, 11,780 were for housing and welfare benefits. It is not possible to provide similar information for human rights cases as these are not a recognised case category in the Legal Services Commission's management information systems.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has allocated for expenditure on legal aid in England in each of the next five years. [278411]

Maria Eagle: The Department has allocated £2,014 million total resource for legal aid expenditure in 2009-10. Budget allocations for 2010-11 have not yet been finalised. Allocations beyond 2010-11 will not be agreed until after the next spending review.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure the Legal Services Commission has incurred on family law legal aid in each of the last five years. [278455]

Bridget Prentice: The net cash expenditure incurred on family legal aid by the Legal Services Commission in each of the last five years is shown in the. Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

Cash expenditure on family legal aid

	£ million
2007-08	582
2006-07	547
2005-06	536
2004-05	488
2003-04	493

Prisoners

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders were given indeterminate sentences for public protection in each year since 2005; [278248]

(2) how many offenders serving indeterminate sentences for public protection were being held beyond the expiry of their tariff on the latest date for which information is available; [278250]

(3) how many prisoners given indeterminate sentences for public protection have been released in each year since 2005. [278251]

Mr. Straw: The number of offenders given indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection recorded on 21 May 2009 since 2005 is as follows:

Year of sentence	*Number sentenced*
2005	445
2006	1,610
2007	1,770
2008	1,342

As of 24 April 2009, 1,711 indeterminate sentenced offenders within the prison estate were recorded as having completed the minimum period imposed by the court for punishment and deterrence (the tariff). There is nothing automatic about release once the tariff has expired; an offender serving a sentence of imprisonment for public protection will be released only when the independent Parole Board determines that the risk of harm which he presents may be safely managed in the community.

The number of prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection released in each year since 2005 is as follows:

Year of release	*Number released*
2006	1
2007	12
2008	35
2009 (to 30 April 2009)	12

These figures have been drawn from the Public Protection Unit database and the IPP database, as with any large scale recording systems, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Probation Service: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the number of inaccurate records held on the *(a)* Delius, *(b)* CRAMS and *(c)* other Probation Service IT case management systems. [278368]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice's Offender Management and Sentencing Analytical Service has indicated that, on average, no more than 1 per cent. of the caseload, commencement and termination data they receive on a monthly basis from the 42 area systems is incomplete.

Probation: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the *(a)* community and *(b)* custody caseload of Lancashire Probation Area was on 31 March in each of the last five financial years; [277865]

(2) how many *(a)* probation officers and *(b)* probation service officers were employed by Lancashire Probation Service on 31 March in each of the last five financial years. [277866]

Maria Eagle: The information requested in relation to community and custody case load in the Lancashire probation area is shown in the following table.

As at 31 March each year	*Community (orders and licences)*	*Custody (pre-release)*	*Total*
2005	5,187	1,571	6,758
2006	5,319	1,661	6,980
2007	5,865	1,781	7,646
2008	6,271	1,889	8,160
2009	6,218	1,959	8,177

The following table shows the number of probation officers and probation service officers in post in the Lancashire probation trust on 31 March in each of the last five financial years:

	Probation officers[1]	*Probation service officers*
2003-04	246	147
2004-05	250	143
2005-06	254	152
2006-07	245	146
2007-08	238	103

[1] Probation officer figures include senior probation officers, senior practitioners and probation officers.

Note:

Figures are shown as full-time equivalents.

Figures for the year 2008-09 are not yet available.

Increasing demand for probation services has been matched by increases in staffing levels:

> The probation annual offender case load went up by 32 per cent. between 2001 and 2006, while the number of probation staff increased by 35 per cent.
>
> Between December 1997 and June 2007, the total number of staff in post in the probation service rose from 13,968 FTE to 20,869 FTE, a rise of 6,901 FTE (49.4 per cent.)
>
> In 2008-09 the probation service under-spent by around £17 million.

Funding for the probation service has also increased over this period:

> Since 1997, the probation resource budget has increased by nearly 70 per cent. in real terms.
>
> Between 2001-02 and 2006-07, total probation spending increased 54 per cent. which included a 40 per cent. increase of local area spend.
>
> In 2008-09 probation areas' main resource grant increased (in cash terms) by an average of 8 per cent., this includes the £40 million announced earlier in the year.

In Lancashire, the probation trust has been able to deliver an excellent level of service while achieving staff efficiency.

Reoffenders: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the effect of London Resettlement Forum projects on re-offending rates in London. [278693]

Maria Eagle: The London Resettlement Pilot Projects at Wormwood Scrubs and Holloway Prisons have been reviewed in terms of operational arrangements, but neither of the evaluations specifically assessed the impact of the pilots on reoffending rates. This is because the sample sizes in the pilots were insufficient to prove a significant change in reoffending and the follow-up period required for reoffences to occur would have delayed the findings being made available, to relevant partners.

Newly published data on local adult reoffending are broken down by probation area and upper tier local authority levels. The reoffending rate for Wandsworth (which includes Putney) between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008 is 8.41 per cent., compared with 8.70 per cent. for London Probation over the same time period. For further details please see 'Local reoffending results 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 England and Wales' available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii.pdf

Reoffenders: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-conviction rate for offenders resident in *(a)* Crosby, *(b)* Sefton and *(c)* Merseyside was in each of the last five years. [277731]

Mr. Hanson: The measure of reoffending used to provide National Statistics for England and Wales is not broken down by area. However, newly published data on local adult reoffending (a different measure of reoffending to the National Statistics) are broken down by probation area and upper tier local authority levels.

As the data are not broken down below the upper tier of the local authority area level there are no figures available for Crosby. The reoffending rate for Sefton metropolitan borough between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008 is 9.89 per cent. The reoffending rate for Merseyside probation area over the same time period is 9.55 per cent.

The local measure covers the reoffending of all offenders on the probation case load, aged 18 or over, at a certain point in time (a "snapshot"), while the national measure covers all offenders commencing a court order under probation supervision or released from custody during the first quarter of the year. Additionally, the local measure allows a three-month period for reoffences to be committed, while the national measure allows a year.

For further details please see "Local reoffending results 1 January 2008—31 December 2008 England and Wales" available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/local-adult-reoffending-2008-ii-pdf

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many criminal convictions have resulted from hit and run incidents in each year since 1997. [278333]

Maria Eagle: Information collected on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice on the number of findings of guilt for 'accident' offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.170 (4) and (7) does not distinguish offences which resulted in injury from those which resulted in damage or both.

While the Department for Transport monitors details of road traffic accidents including 'hit and run', this information is not linked with details of any subsequent convictions.

Supreme Court

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had on the establishment of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [278123]

Mr. Straw: My announcement to the House on 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS, provides the latest update on the development of the United Kingdom Supreme Court. In addition public consultation on the fees payable in the court closed on 5 May 2009.

Young Offenders: Education

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding will be allocated to the Youth Justice Board for expenditure on education in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [278249]

Mr. Straw: For the financial year 2009-10 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) has allocated £26 million for expenditure on education from its Ministry of Justice grant. In addition, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has allocated a further £23 million to the YJB for education expenditure.

Funding for 2010-11 and 2011-12 has not yet been allocated.

OLYMPICS

Paralympic Games 2012: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Paralympics archery and wheelchair tennis events at Eton Manor. [278318]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

In respect of the white water canoe course and Eton Manor, which are being constructed by the Olympic Delivery Authority, the project budgets cannot be disclosed at the current time owing to reasons of commercial sensitivity.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years. [277644]

Mr. Thomas: All Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

The Department for International Development (DFID) has taken a series of comprehensive steps to adapt to climate change in the last two years. Details of these are available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277719]

Mr. Thomas: It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs.

In terms of the work of the Department for International Development (DFID), climate change will impose additional costs. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change estimates the costs of adaptation in developing countries at between $28 billion and $67 billion per year by 2030.

The costs of not acting would be much more significant, however, as climate change threatens to slow and reverse progress towards poverty reduction and sustainable development in developing countries. The UK Government are working to ensure a new deal on climate change that includes sufficient new finance to support developing countries to adapt. Details of UK Government policies, expenditure and steps taken are available on the Department for International Development's website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259817]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's compliance arrangements comprise a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review. There have been six IT security breaches in the last 12 months. No members of staff have been disciplined for a breach of IT security policy in the last 12 months.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278745]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) made no such notifications to the Information Commissioner in the year that ended on the 30 April 2009.

Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework and the data handling report produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for (i) breaches of data protection requirements and (ii) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278746]

Mr. Thomas: No officials have been disciplined or dismissed for breaches of data protection or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Politics and Government

Mr. Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to assist the development of civic society and democratic institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. [275138]

Mr. Thomas: Following the 2006 White Paper on International Development, the Department for International Development (DFID) launched a £130 million Governance and Transparency Fund. Details of this are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/Closed-funds/Governance-and-Transparency-Fund-GTF-/

DFID also supports democratic institutions and civil society through its country programmes. We have projects providing parliamentary support, either recently completed or ongoing, in eleven African countries.

Increasingly our support to parliaments is embedded in broader integrated governance and accountability programmes. For example: in Malawi we are supporting a programme to develop more accountable and responsive governance, including support to Parliament, the electoral commission, the media and civil society; in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we support a programme to strengthen democracy and accountability; and in Uganda we support a "Deepening Democracy" programme, including a parliamentary support component.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the net effect on public expenditure of a system of central *(a)* collection and *(b)* administration of council tax [278074]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of availability of mortgage finance for households wishing to purchase under *(a)* Homebuy Direct, *(b)* Ownhome, *(c)* OpenMarket HomeBuy, *(d)* the First-Time Buyer's Initiative, *(e)* MyChoice HomeBuy, *(f)* New Build HomeBuy, *(g)* Social HomeBuy and *(h)* Rent to HomeBuy. [277971]

John Healey: For *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)*, *(d)* and *(e)* which are shared equity schemes, we have no evidence that purchasers are unable to obtain mortgage finance.

For *(f)* and *(g)*, which enable purchasers to buy on shared ownership terms, I refer the hon. Member to the answer he was given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1008W. No mortgage is necessary for Rent to HomeBuy. Prospective purchasers pay a below market rent, while saving for a deposit, and then buy on New Build HomeBuy terms.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to bring forward measures obliging local authorities to publish details of the remuneration and pensions provision of chief executives and senior members of staff; and if he will make a statement. [278018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The statutory consultation on draft regulations about disclosure of senior pay in public bodies began on 30 March. It proposes that local authorities include remuneration disclosure in their 2009-10 annual accounts. Subject to a careful consideration of responses, I plan to make and lay the final regulations later this year.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to reply to the letter to his predecessor dated 7 April 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Ed Cox. [279134]

Mr. Denham: I have now replied to my right hon. Friend's letter.

Social Rented Housing: Sales

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties owned by registered social landlords were sold to tenants between 1997 and 2000. [277966]

John Healey: The following table shows the number of registered social landlord properties sold to tenants between 1997-08 and 2000-01.

	Number
1997-98	4,695
1998-99	4,536
1999-2000	7,335
2000-01	7,256

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA)

Sales to tenants include sales through Right to Buy, Preserved Right to Buy, Right to Acquire and Voluntary Purchase Grant. Sales to tenants have been defined to mean where the tenant is currently occupying the property they are purchasing.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many social housing tenants have made right to buy claims in each region in each year since 1997; how many such claims were accepted in each year; and how many sales were completed in each year; [277967]

(2) what the discount granted to social tenants under the right to buy scheme has been in each year since 1997. [277970]

John Healey: A table showing local authority Right to Buy claims, acceptances and sales for each region for each year since 1997 has been placed in the House Library. This table includes figures on the total value of the discount granted and the information requested on Right to Buy discounts.

The local authority Right To Buy data are taken from P1B returns from local authorities to CLG.

Regional estimates of Right to Buy and Preserved Right to Buy sales of properties owned by registered social landlords are also available for 1999-2000 to 2007-08. These are included in Live Table 675 on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table675.xls

Figures on the number of claims and acceptances are not available for RSL RTB sales.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which government office regions have established regional beacons for creative industries. [278539]

Barbara Follett: The North East, Yorkshire and Humber, North West, West Midlands, South West, South East, East and East Midlands regions are all part of a network of regional beacons examining business support given to the Creative Industries by Business Link. A national best practice guide is due to be published by the end of July.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in the last five years. [277160]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested by the hon. Member is not separately recorded on the Department's accounting system. To provide the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 579, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes. [278053]

Mr. Bradshaw: I will shortly be writing to the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes about this issue. I apologise for the delay in doing so.

Public Houses: Rural Areas

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations his Department has received from owners of pubs or organisations representing pubs on the regulatory burden for smaller rural pubs; and if he will make a statement. [278717]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has not received any recent representations on the regulatory burden for smaller rural pubs.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced on 5 February a number of new initiatives to support rural businesses, including public houses. These new schemes will complement existing initiatives such as "Pub is the Hub" which was set up in 2001 through the Rural Action Programme of Business in the Community to encourage breweries, pub owners, licensees and local communities to work together to help retain and enhance rural services in isolated areas.

In addition, the Government have now published their response to the community pubs inquiry report. Hard copies are available in the Vote and Printed Paper Office, and it is also available on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6137.aspx

The inquiry report recommendations covered the policy interests of several Government Departments and DCMS collated a cross-government response.

Sports: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to provide funding for young people to participate in *(a)* cultural and *(b)* sporting programmes in Coventry. [278466]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The majority of Exchequer funding provided in general support of these activities is channelled to local authorities via settlements from the Department for Communities and Local Government. DCMS works with other Departments and our network of sponsored bodies (NDPBs) to set overarching objectives relating to the sectors for which we have policy responsibility in Government. Recent information relating to Coventry is provided, with much of the detail provided by our family of NDPBs:

Sport

Free swimming

Coventry city council has opted in to both the under 16 and over 60 Free Swimming Programme and will receive revenue monies directly from DCMS. The local authorities that have opted to offer the scheme to both age groups have also received a share of a £10 million capital fund to spend on modernising or improving pool provision in time for the start of the two-year scheme in 2009. Those local authorities that will offer free swimming to both age groups also stand to benefit from a further £25 million capital challenge fund in both 2008-09 and 2010-11 to spend on improving pool facilities.

PE and sport strategy for young people

Coventry, like the rest of England, will benefit from the Government's PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP)—the "five hour offer"—which will create a world-class system for PE and sport in England, in which all five to 16-year-olds have access to five hours of high-quality PE and sport per week—and all 16 to 19-year-olds can access up to three hours high-quality PE and sport a week—by 2011.

'Sport Unlimited' is a Sport England initiative to get more children and young people taking part in sports outside of school in line with PESSYP. 964 young people were involved in Sport Unlimited projects delivered between September 2008 and March 2009, with 713 young people attending 60 per cent. of the sessions. It is predicted that 1,627 young people will be involved in Sport Unlimited activities within Coventry throughout the summer and autumn terms of year 2.

One million active people

Sport England has a target of getting one million people doing more sport by 2012-13. This strategy will be driven by National Governing Bodies of sport (NGBs) through community clubs, coaches, officials and volunteers, including in Coventry.

Cultural programmes

A new national organisation, Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) has been created to generate transformational cultural and creative programmes for children and young people across England to enhance their aspirations, achievements, skills and life chances, including Creative Partnerships—the Government's flagship creative learning programme. Creative Partnerships has worked on 222 projects with Coventry schools (LEA area) making school more exciting for young people. In the wider Creative Partnerships area, Creative Partnerships has involved 13,250 young people, and 1,651 of their teachers.

In addition there are six organisations in Coventry (Open Theatre Company, Warwick Arts Centre, Talking Birds Theatre Company, Arts and Media Training, Belgrade Theatre and Theatre Absolute) that are classed by Arts Council England as Regularly Funded Organisations. The latter, Theatre Absolute, has a particular focus towards young people who are at risk.

Lottery funding

Finally, organisations supporting young people in Coventry are also likely to have benefited from awards from national lottery distributors, including the Big Lottery Fund. Details of such awards can be found on the National Lottery database at

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

TREASURY

Banks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investment banks he has visited on official business in the last six months. [278118]

Kitty Ussher: Treasury Ministers' official duties entail visits throughout the United Kingdom.

Budget April 2009

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish in full each submission his Department has received on Budget 2009. [278173]

Kitty Ussher: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations. However, many representations are available publicly on the respective organisations' websites.

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied (i) him and (ii) the Chief Secretary to the Treasury to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009; [273953]

(2) what car journeys *(a)* he and *(b)* the Chief Secretary to the Treasury took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273954]

(3) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273955]

(4) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he, (ii) the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and (iii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273973]

Kitty Ussher: For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what contracts his Department has awarded to Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners since 1 January 2007; and on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met representatives of Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners since that date. [267848]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 30 March 2009]:* The Treasury has had no contracts with Clemmow Hornby Inge Partners since 1 January 2007. Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years. [277641]

Kitty Ussher: All Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The role of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across Government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation

As well as working together to tackle issues that affect all Departments and their work, each Government Department is adapting to climate change in its own operations and policies. Reflecting evidence that climate change in the UK is likely to increase the severity and frequency of flooding events, the 2007 comprehensive spending review announced that total government expenditure on flood and coastal erosion risk management will rise from £600 million in 2007-08 to £800 million in 2010-11.

In addition, Treasury officials have also been working with DEFRA and other Departments to develop supplementary Green Book guidance to enable adaptation to climate change to be taken into account in appraisal and decision-making. It is planned that this will be issued during the summer and made available to all Departments through the Green Book website.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277716]

Kitty Ussher: It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years. It has, however, been shown in the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that timely and well-targeted climate adaptation measures will yield benefits in excess of their costs. Some of these benefits will accrue to Departments as cost-savings over the next three years, with further more significant gains to be made in future years. The main rationale for investment to address climate risk will be to reduce the UK's vulnerability to longer-term climate change impacts.

The Government are undertaking a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Economic Analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament in 2011.

The Government will also be publishing supplementary appraisal guidance this summer. This will help to ensure that adaptation measures are designed and implemented in a cost-effective manner.

Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278734]

Kitty Ussher: Under the Treasury's staff conduct and disciplinary policies, a range of informal and formal disciplinary actions can be taken when staff have been found to have breached departmental policies, including those relating to the handling of protected data. It is the Treasury's policy not to release statistics relating to numbers of staff fewer than five whereto do so might lead to the identification of individual cases.

In the last 12 months, fewer than five staff were subject to action under disciplinary policies in organisations within the Treasury Group.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of *(a)* legal, *(b)* taxation, *(c)* financial and *(d)* other consultancy advice to (i) his Department and (ii) the Bank of England was in 2008-09. [272588]

Kitty Ussher: For details of the Treasury's spending on consultants I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 24 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 982W.

Spending by the Bank of England in 2008-09 on consultancy is shown as follows.

Legal advice: £8,300,000
Taxation advice: £200,000
Financial advice: £4,200,000
Other consultancy advice: £1,800,000

Of the total, costs amounting to £11,000,000 were covered by income from or charges to customers and counterparties, of which £9,400,000 were in relation to exceptional financial stability measures (mostly recoveries of legal and financial costs). This left a net cost to the Bank of £3,900,000.

Departmental Foreign Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of his Department are Republic of Ireland nationals. [278141]

Kitty Ussher: We do not routinely capture this information on our HR database. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on the maintenance of its website in each year since 2007. [278139]

Kitty Ussher: HM Treasury's website receives over 2 million unique visits a year.

The costs of maintaining the departmental website www.hm-treasury.gov.uk are as follows:

Financial year	*Maintenance costs (£)*	*Unique visits*
2008-09	168,349	2,273,204
2007-08	117,332	3,174,007
2006-07	130,781	2,460,197

Maintenance costs includes direct costs, for example web hosting, support, and infrastructure.

Staff costs are not included as they could only be established at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274496]

Kitty Ussher: For information on the cost (including the cost of refreshments where provided) of conferences attended by 100 people or more in 2006-07 and 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 715-16W. Information on conferences prior to 2006-07 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Conference costs in 2008-09 are not currently available as they form part of the Treasury's Resource Account, due for publication in the summer, which is subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on event management services in each of the last three years; and whether any such services were supplied by external providers. [274847]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not held centrally and could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Departmental Surveys

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on staff surveys in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [278149]

Kitty Ussher: In 2007, the Treasury employed Towers Perrin-ISR to conduct its annual staff survey. The cost of this survey was £50,581 (inc. VAT). In 2008, the Treasury employed Tribal to conduct its annual staff survey. Information on expenditure in 2008-09 will be available following publication of the Treasury's resource account, in the summer.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on Equitable Life; and if he will make a statement. [276449]

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has had with Ministerial colleagues regarding Equitable Life and compensation for Equitable Life shareholders; [276502]

(2) what recent discussions the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has had with the Parliamentary Ombudsman regarding Equitable Life. [276503]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Excise Duties: Fuel Oil

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on the haulage industry of the two pence fuel duty increase planned for September 2009. [276152]

Kitty Ussher: Fuel duty is lower in real terms than in 1999. In taking taxation decisions as part of the Budget process, the Government take a range of factors, such as relevant environmental, social and economic factors—including where appropriate those relating to specific sectors—into consideration.

However, assessments of the cost of fuel duty increases to the haulage industry are subject to significant amounts of variation, as they depend on assumptions made about average mileage and fuel consumption. In addition many hauliers have contracts that allow them to pass these costs on. Furthermore, considering fuel duty in isolation is misleading: overall operating costs in the UK have been found to be broadly similar to those in Italy, Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Increases to fuel duty should be seen alongside measures announced in Budget 2009 which will benefit the UK road freight industry, such as:

the temporary increase of capital allowances in 2009-10. A first-year allowance of 40 per cent. will be introduced for new capital investment (such as lorries);

the freezing of lorry VED rates in 2009;

the inclusion of vans up to 3.5 tonnes in the scrappage scheme; and

the commitment to incentivise the choice of Euro VI HGVs once the full details of the standard have been established;

Budget 2009 also built on the 2008 pre-Budget report, and outlined a series of measures designed to support businesses, which includes hauliers.

GFX Capital Markets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on what date the Financial Services Authority *(a)* granted and *(b)* withdrew authorisation for GFX Capital Markets under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000; [278474]

(2) what due diligence the Financial Services Authority undertook on Terry Freeman, also known as Terry Sparks, to ensure that he met its fit and proper test for approved persons. [278475]

Ian Pearson: The matters raised in these questions are the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence. The FSA will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Income Tax: Repayments

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what target has been set in respect of the time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to process a claim for an income tax refund; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum time taken to process such a claim was in the latest period for which figures are available. [278816]

Mr. Timms: Refunds made from online self assessment returns are normally made within seven days. For paper returns HM Revenue and Customs identify returns on receipt marked 'repayment' and process these as priority. Sampling of self assessment repayments from October 2008 to April 2009 indicates that 90 per cent. of repayments were made within 30 days.

99.3 per cent. of repayment claims arising from tax on investment income deducted at source in 2008-09 were processed within 15 working days of receipt against a target of 97 per cent. Figures for the maximum time taken are not available.

Met Office

John Thurso: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for the completion of the review of the Met Office by Gerry Grimstone; and if he will make a statement. [277712]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 2 June 2009]:* The Operational Efficiency Programme has taken a tailored approach to each of the studies in its remit, and carries out a rolling programme of work that reports at six-monthly intervals. Work is now under way on the next steps set out for the Met Office review in the OEP Final Report published April 2009, with the findings of this work dictating the timing of the study's recommendations. Progress will next be reported at the pre-Budget report 2009.

Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assumptions about the take-up rate of those eligible to defer business rates under the business rates deferral scheme announced on 31 March 2009 were made in preparing the estimates contained in the Budget 2009 Red Book; [278076]

(2) what assumption his Department made about the cash receipts impact of the business rates deferral scheme in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 in preparation for the announcement of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [278077]

Kitty Ussher: The Treasury's approach to calculating the costings of Budget decisions is set out in appendix A2 of the Budget document. DCLG will shortly be publishing an impact assessment for the deferral of business rates, which will set out further details of the cost to the Exchequer.

Public Sector Debt

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what date he next expects public sector debt to come below 40 per cent. of gross domestic product. [278482]

Mr. Byrne: In the current global environment of uncertainty, our focus is on ensuring that debt is on a downwards path in the medium term. And we have set out clear plans to do precisely that.

Smuggling: Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much of the funding allocated to the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy of 2000 was spent in each of the three years for which funds were allocated; [270014]

(2) how many *(a)* staff, *(b)* X-ray scanners, *(c)* publicity campaigns and *(d)* miscellaneous costs were funded from the £209 million allocated to the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy of 2000 (i) in total and (ii) in each year of the initiative; [270015]

(3) how much his Department spent on the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling strategy in each year of the programme; how many of his Department's staff worked on implementing the strategy in each year; and how many of these were engaged in *(a)* detection, *(b)* intelligence-gathering and analysis, *(c)* investigations and *(d)* the provision of legal advice in each such year; [270016]

(4) pursuant to the answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 721-22W, on smuggling: tobacco, what estimate he has made of the expenditure incurred by his Department on salaries for the full-time equivalent staff allocated to tackling tobacco smuggling *(a)* in total, *(b)* engaged in detection, *(c)* engaged in investigations and *(d)* working on intelligence matters in 2007-08; [270017]

(5) pursuant to the answer of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 261W, on smuggling: tobacco, what expenditure his Department has incurred in running the X-ray scanners in each year since 2003; [270018]

(6) pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 635W, on smuggling tobacco, what the cost was of the Government's publicity campaigns to prevent tobacco smuggling in each of the last five years. [270364]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 24 April 2009]*: It is not possible to provide details of the overall expenditure from allocated funds, to reduce levels of smuggling and supplying of illegal and counterfeit tobacco over the three years. However, we can break down various areas of the Tobacco strategy which are detailed as follows:

The full-time equivalent of staff employed on tackling tobacco smuggling for 2005-06 to 2007-08 are shown as follows. Figures for 2000-05 are not available.

	Detection	*Investigation*	*Intelligence*	*Total*
2005-06	1,407	319	279	2,005
2006-07	1,557	278	295	2,130
2007-08	1,574	287	264	2,125
2008-09	1,560	315	255	2,130

The figures given are HMRC's best estimate of the way resources were used in the years specified, bearing in mind that the work of staff employed on anti-fraud and smuggling activity often covers a number of different taxes and commodities.

Expenditure incurred on salaries for full-time equivalent staff allocated to tobacco smuggling is shown in the following table. Figures for 2000-06 are not available.

£

	Detection	*Investigation*	*Intelligence*	*Total*
2006-07	61,351,790.69	13,246,434.95	12,246,665.35	86,844,890
2007-08	65,037,870.02	14,243,597.55	11,271,899.07	90,553,366
2008-09	64,257,196.50	19,998,544.53	12,244,642.47	96,500,383.50

HMRC is unable to disaggregate time spent on the provision of legal advice on tobacco from related matters on time spent on other advisory work.

HMRC's fleet of mobile X-ray scanners has made a vitally important contribution to the success of the tobacco smuggling strategy. HMRC has had 14 scanners in operation since 2003. These scanners were purchased between 2000 and 2001 at a total cost of £29,663,005.

There are substantial maintenance costs for all the 14 scanners currently in operation. The annual maintenance costs per unit are as follows:

Number	*Monthly maintenance (£)*	*Total annual cost (£)*
4	24,519	1,176,912
6	14,788	1,064,736
4	6,768	324,864

Five new scanners have recently been purchased at a cost of £842,000 per scanner with ongoing maintenance costs of £180,000 per scanner over a 10-year contract.

HM Revenue and Customs have spent almost £1.5 million (excluding VAT) on targeted media campaigns to support their anti-tobacco smuggling strategy in the last five years. The costs per year are shown as follows:

	£
2003-04	672,449
2004-05	83,368
2005-06	536,382
2006-07	91,993
2007-08	55,000

I regret it is not possible to provide details of miscellaneous costs under the Tobacco strategy.

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether his Department has undertaken research into the effectiveness of track and trace technology used in other countries for tobacco products; [278647]

(2) whether tobacco companies are responsible for passing on track and trace information on their own products to his Department; [278648]

(3) how many tobacco products sold in the UK in 2008-09 were monitored by HM Revenue and Customs by using track and trace technology. [278700]

Kitty Ussher: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) keeps abreast of developments in tracking and tracing techniques through its regular contacts with UK tobacco manufacturers and customs authorities in other EU member states, and through its participation in the development of the illicit trade protocol to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. HMRC is particularly supportive of efforts by the tobacco manufacturers to develop an industry-wide standard tracking and tracing system.

HMRC has legislation in place which requires tobacco manufacturers to control their supply chains. This legislation was introduced to reinforce the existing memoranda of understanding with tobacco manufacturers and requires manufacturers to provide tracking and tracing information for all seizures that meet the supply chain legislation criteria. These criteria are currently set at 100,000 cigarettes and 50 kg of hand-rolling tobacco.

HMRC does not require tobacco manufacturers to provide tracking and tracing information for goods on which UK excise duty has been paid and which are sold legitimately in the UK. As such, no tobacco products legitimately sold in the UK were monitored by HMRC using track and trace technology.

Tax Avoidance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the sums which have accrued to the Exchequer attributable to IR35 measures in each financial year since their introduction; [277390]

(2) how many people HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor have employed to manage claims under IR35 measures since their introduction; and at what cost; [277391]

(3) how many cases HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has brought against *(a)* individuals and *(b)* companies under IR35 measures in each year since their introduction; how many such cases have been settled in HMRC's favour; and how many cases are outstanding; [277392]

(4) what the average length of an inquiry undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs under IR35 measures has been in each financial year since their introduction; [277393]

(5) what claims under performance indicators HM Revenue and Customs uses to monitor the performance of its team investigating claims under IR35 measures; and what performance was recorded against such indicators in each financial year since the introduction of IR35. [277389]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 64W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

HMRC has not employed additional employees to deal with IR35 and deploys resources in accordance with its compliance strategy.

HMRC conducts Employer Compliance reviews where IR35 is one of a possible number of risks. A number of reviews result in further action. Some are settled by agreement and the others go before a tribunal for resolution. Aggregative data about how such specific inquiries are settled are not routinely collected.

HMRC does not collect data about the average length of inquires undertaken where IR35 was considered to be a risk.

HMRC does not have any specific IR35 performance indicators. HMRC compliance activity is aligned to its Departmental Strategic Objectives as set out on page 18 of HMRC's Autumn Performance Report 2008. Additional performance indicators are shown in Section 5, pages 42 and 43, of the same report:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Taxation: Construction

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to standardise the taxation rate for inert waste to encourage reuse and reclamation of construction materials. [277494]

Kitty Ussher: Landfill tax is a UK wide tax on the disposal of waste by way of landfill at authorised landfill sites. There are two rates of landfill tax which reflects the significant environmental impact landfilling has on the environment.

The standard rate applies to active wastes that decay, currently set at £40 per tonne. The lower rate applies to inactive or inert wastes, currently set at £2.50 per tonne, which reflects the fact that they have less of an environmental impact than active wastes, which can emit greenhouse gases such as methane.

Wastes that benefit from the lower rate are listed in the Landfill Tax (Qualifying Material) Order 1996. These include rocks and soils and concrete materials that may be considered construction materials.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investigations his Department has pursued into non-domiciled status cases in each of the last five years. [278500]

Mr. Timms: The requested information is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs do not collate information on investigations in this form. Where domicile is an issue within an inquiry it is rarely the only one and may or not be the initial reason that the inquiry was started. Statistics on domicile are not separated from other issues in such inquiries.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for non-domiciled status for tax purposes have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused in each of the last five years. [278501]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs do not hold the information requested.

Taxation: Repayments

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to reimburse compound interest to taxpayers in cases of overpayment of *(a)* value added tax and *(b)* domestic and non-domestic rates. [278499]

Mr. Timms: VAT law provides that interest, calculated at a simple rate, should be paid to taxpayers who have overdeclared VAT as a result of official error. It also provides that taxpayers are charged interest at a simple rate if they have underdeclared VAT. To claim interest on overdeclarations of VAT, taxpayers have to make a valid claim in writing to HMRC within prescribed time limits. The question of whether HMRC is liable to pay compound or simple interest on overdeclared VAT claims is currently the subject of litigation and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this time.

A council tax payer is entitled to request a refund of overpaid council tax following a council tax rebanding. However, there is no requirement in the council tax legislative framework for local authorities to pay interest on any overpayment of council tax.

If a non-domestic ratepayer overpays their liability, as well as providing a refund, the Non-Domestic Rating (Payment of Interest Regulations) 1990 provide for billing authorities to pay an additional amount by way of interest. There are no provisions in the regulations for the payment of compound interest to ratepayers.

VAT: Bingo

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the annual revenue which would be forgone by the Exchequer from the removal of value added tax on interval bingo. [278154]

Kitty Ussher: It is estimated that the removal of value added tax on interval bingo would forego around £25 million in revenue in 2009-10. This includes the impact of value added tax removal on excise duty revenues from bingo and other gambling sectors.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria Partnerships for Schools apply to determine whether an academy should be built through the National Framework. [278069]

Mr. Coaker: Partnership for Schools (PfS), the NDPB responsible for the delivery of the Building Schools for Future (BSF) programme, actively seeks to deliver all schools through established Local Education Partnerships. If this is not possible as a result of the local authority in question not currently being part of the BSF programme or if the LEP is unable to respond to the time scale required then the national framework will be considered as a delivery option.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average length of the *(a)* brokering phase, *(b)* period between statement of interest to expression of interest, *(c)* period between expression of interest to funding agreement and *(d)* period between funding agreement to opening was in respect of new academies which entered the brokering phase between (i) June 2005 and June 2006, (ii) June 2006 and June 2007, (iii) June 2007 and June 2008 and (iv) June 2008 and May 2009; [278070]

(2) what the length of the *(a)* brokering phase, *(b)* period between statement of interest to expression of interest, *(c)* period between expression of interest to funding agreement and *(d)* period between funding agreement to opening was for each academy which has opened. [278071]

Mr. Coaker: We do not keep central records of when brokering discussions begin for academy projects. The statement of intent (SOI) phase has only been a formally recorded part of the process since 2007. It would be beyond the cost-threshold to provide the data as requested. I have placed a table in the House Libraries which sets out the time frame of each phase for open academies and all current projects which have passed EOI stage. Where there is no SOI and the FA is yet to be signed, the date of the EOI is provided.

The average period between SOI and expression of interest (EOI) is six months and EOI to funding agreement (FA) is 17 months. For all open academies, the average between the funding agreement stage and opening date is eight months.

Care Proceedings

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications were made by local authorities for care orders during *(a)* July, *(b)* August, *(c)* September, *(d)* November and *(e)* December 2008. [248902]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 in the months July to December 2008 is given in the following table. Public law cases are those brought by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the NSPCC). Figures relate to the number of children that are subject to each application and have been rounded to the nearest 10. Please note that 2008 figures are provisional.

Comparisons between single months should be made with caution as the monthly figures are subject to more volatility than those covering longer time periods.

Number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989, England and Wales; county courts and family proceedings courts

2008	*Family proceedings courts*[1]	*County courts*[2]	*Total*
July	800	310	1,110
August	780	160	930
September	830	180	1,010
October	870	200	1,070
November	1,090	160	1,240
December	1,270	230	1,500

[1] There have been data quality issues with figures for family proceedings courts. A new method of collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the coverage and completeness of data.

[2] Research undertaken on behalf of Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases that have transferred from the family proceedings court to the county court have been incorrectly recorded as new applications in the county court, thus inflating the reported number of new applications through double counting (see Masson et al 2008).

Source:

HMCS FamilyMan and manual returns, as at January 2009.

Child Minding: Manpower

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered child minders there were in each local authority in each quarter in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [278878]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of registered child minders in each local authority in each quarter of each year since 2003 has been placed in the House Libraries.

Class Sizes

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to reducing class sizes in schools in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England schools in each year since 1997; [278582]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to employing more teachers for schools in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England schools in each year since 1997. [278576]

Mr. Coaker: Local authorities are responsible for the distribution of funding (including funding provided through the dedicated schools grant (DSG)) to schools in their area. Each local authority in consultation with their schools forum can choose to include a factor in their funding formula to direct resources to schools with infant classes to enable them to meet the class size duty. The Department does not collect information on how much funding was allocated to employing more teachers for Mid Bedfordshire and eastern region schools.

In 2008-09 the final DSG amount for Bedfordshire was £227.69 million. The 2009-10 final DSG amount for central Bedfordshire are yet to be published.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278834]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The number and percentage of invoices paid within the Government's 10 day target over the last seven months for the Department for Children, Schools and Families was as follows:

Date	*Number of invoices*	*Percentage*
November 2008	3,588	91.6
December 2008	3,712	90.1
January 2009	3,629	91.8
February 2009	4,195	92.5
March 2009	5,500	93.2
April 2009	3,947	84.1
May 2009	3,061	92.0

Education Maintenance Allowance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to extend eligibility for the education maintenance allowance in the 2009-10 financial year to children from households with a projected annual income of less than £30,810; and if he will make a statement. [278806]

Mr. Coaker: For most young people, eligibility for education maintenance allowance (EMA) is subject to an assessment of their household income based on the financial year prior to the academic year in which they start their course. The assessment will be based on evidence of that income. The upper threshold to qualify for EMA is £30,810. If they meet other eligibility criteria such as being a young person aged 16 to 18 and on a relevant course, and residency requirements, applicants will qualify for EMA if the income evidence supports that.

A successful assessment provides a young person with a guaranteed entitlement of up to three years of EMA on the same rate, plus a guaranteed minimum level of non-repayable student support should they progress into higher education within three years. It is appropriate that such guarantees for long term support for those who need it are provided on the basis of evidence rather than conjecture.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of those enrolled in an entry to employment programme have received the maximum education maintenance allowance in each month since June 2008. [278854]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Castle Point with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W, on education: standards, which qualifications considered for approval by the Joint Advisory Council for Certificates have *(a)* not been approved, *(b)* been referred back and *(c)* been approved; and if he will make a statement. [276889]

Mr. Coaker: The qualifications considered to date by the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval (JACQA) are listed in the following tables:

Table 1: Qualifications considered by JACQA at December 2008 meeting

Awarding organisation	*Qualification title*
Recommended for approval	
EDEXCEL	Level 2 NVQ in Specialist Plant Machinery Operations (Lifting and Transferring)
City and Guilds	Level 2 Diploma in Women's Hairdressing Services

Table 2: Qualifications considered by JACQA at March 2009 meeting

Awarding organisation	*Qualification title*
(a) Not recommended for approval	
ILEX	Level 6 Certificate in Law
(b) Referred back	
NCFE	Level 3 Certificate in Early Years Foundation Stage Practice (QCF)
City and Guilds	Level 2 Award in F-Gas and ODS Regulations: Categories I/II/III/IV (QCF)
EDI	Level 2 Certificate in Warehousing and Storage Principles (QCF)
ABC	Level 3 Certificate in Textile Technology (QCF)
CACHE	Level 3 Certificate in Support Teaching and Learning in Schools
CYQ	Level 3 Certificate in Sports Massage
City and Guilds	Level 2 Award in Understanding Stewarding at Spectator Events (QCF)
City and Guilds	Level 1 Award in Preparation for Event Volunteering (QCF)

Table 2: Qualifications considered by JACQA at March 2009 meeting

Awarding organisation	*Qualification title*
ABC	Level 1 Award in Basic Landscaping (QCF)
NCFE	Level 2 NVQ in Providing Security Services
EDEXCEL	Level 2 NVQ in Providing Security Services
CACHE	Level 2 Award in Support Work in Schools
CACHE	Level 3 Award in Support Work in Schools
OCR	Level 2 Award in Support Work in Schools
OCR	Level 2 Certificate in Support Work in Schools
OCR	Level 3 Award in Support Work in Schools
OCR	Level 3 Certificate in Support Work in Schools
OCR	Level 3 Diploma in Support Work in Schools
EDI	Level 3 NVQ in Starting a New Business Enterprise
CACHE	Level 2 Award in Playwork
C Skills Awards	Level 3 Diplomas in Civil Engineering (QCF)
EDI	Level 2 NVQ in Advice and Guidance Support
EDI	Level 3 NVQ in Advice and Guidance Support
C Skills Awards	Level 2 NVQ in Hire and Rental Operations
NCFE	Level 2 NVQ in Customer Service
NCFE	Level 3 NVQ in Occupational Health and Safety
City and Guilds	Level 3 NVQ in Nail Services
NCFE	Level 3 NVQ in Customer Service
City and Guilds	Level 2 Certificate in Working in the Photo Imaging Industry
City and Guilds	Level 3 Certificate in Business Skills for Photo Imaging Industry
NCFE	Level 3 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)
NCFE	Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)
CIH	Level 2 Award in Community Action Housing
EDEXCEL	Level 2 NVQ in Road Passenger Transport Operations
(c) Recommended for approval	
ABC	Level 2 Diploma in Shoe Repair, Key Cutting and Associated Multi Services (QCF)
ABC	Level 2 Award in Shoe Repair, Key Cutting and Associated Multi Services (QCF)
ABC	Level 2 Certificate in Shoe Repair, Key Cutting and Associated Multi Services (QCF)
ABC	Level 4 Diploma in Visual Merchandising for Retail (QCF)
ABC	Level 4 Diploma in Buying and Merchandising for Fashion Retail (QCF)
NCFE	Level 4 NVQ in Fire and Rescue Sector Control Operations
EDEXCEL	Level 3 NVQ in Fire and Rescue Sector Control Operations
EDI	Level 4 NVQ in Advice and Guidance
City and Guilds	Level 3 Certificate in Early Years Foundation Stage Practice (QCF)

GCE A-Level

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1073W on GCSE A level, how many and what percentage of the 247 schools that did not enter any pupils for an A level in physics in 2006-07 entered at least one pupil for an A level in applied science. [277956]

Mr. Coaker: Of the 247 maintained mainstream schools that did not enter any pupils for an A-level in physics in 2006/07, 33 (13 per cent.) entered at least one candidate for a single or double award A-level in applied science in the same year.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils who achieved grade five in science at key stage two in 2003 went on to achieve a grade C or higher in *(a)* physics, *(b)* biology, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* double award science and *(e)* single award science at GCSE. [267477]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The answer is provided in the following table.

	Physics	*Chemistry*	*Biology*	*Core science*	*Core and additional science*
Number of pupils who achieved a grade C or higher in selected GCSEs and					
[illegible]ed level 5 in K[illegible]science	50,193	50,849	52,588	162,580	138,110
Took KS2 tests but did not receive level 5 in KS2 science	7,014	7,348	8,835	113,379	73,820
Other	224	228	259	1,671	1,096
Prior attainment not available	6,196	6,338	6,577	14,116	11,586

Source:
National Pupil Database.

The figures relate to pupils who were at the end of key stage 4 in 2008 and include any GCSE attempts by these pupils in previous academic years. Only full GCSEs have been included.

Not all of these pupils will have taken their key stage 2 tests in 2003.

Pupils who took their KS2 tests in 2003 may not have reached the end of key stage 4 in 2008.

These pupils are not included in these figures.

'Other' includes pupils working below the level of the test and those absent or with missing results. Some pupils have no prior attainment available (for example pupils who took their KS2 tests in Scotland or Wales).

Double and single award science courses were terminated in 2008. Provided instead are figures for pupils who took only core science and those that took both core and additional science.

GCSE: History

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many and what proportion of mainstream maintained schools which entered more than 10 candidates for GCSE history all pupils gained a grade A* to C in that subject in the latest year for which figures are available; [276841]

(2) in how many and what proportion of mainstream maintained schools which entered one or more candidates for GCSE history no pupil achieved a grade A* to C in that subject in the latest year for which figures are available. [276842]

Mr. Coaker: Of all the mainstream maintained schools who entered more than 10 pupils for GCSE history, in 52 (1.8 per cent.) schools all pupils gained grades A*-C in 2008.

Of all the mainstream maintained schools who entered one or more pupils for GCSE History, in 10 (0.3 per cent.) schools no pupils gained grades A*-C in 2008.

Data relate to pupils at the end of KS4 and include GCSE only.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many and what proportion of mainstream maintained schools no pupil was entered for GCSE history in the latest year for which figures are available. [276843]

Mr. Coaker: Of all the mainstream maintained schools, 96 (3.1 per cent.) did not enter any pupils for GCSE history in 2008.

Data relates to pupils at the end of KS4 and includes GCSE only.

History: Primary Education

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it a requirement of the school curriculum that all children between school years 7 and 11 are taught British history from the period prior to the Roman Conquest to the end of the 20th century; and if he will make a statement. [278151]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: History is compulsory in schools up to the age of 14 and the key stage three national curriculum programme of study for history requires pupils to be taught a substantial amount of British history, for example the major events, changes and developments in British history covering at least the medieval, early modern, industrial and twentieth-century periods. History is not compulsory post 14 to allow greater flexibility within the curriculum. However it remains popular at KS4 and beyond. At GCSE at least 25 per cent. of the syllabus must cover a coherent element of British history and/or the history of England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales.

The new KS3 national curriculum was introduced from September 2008 following widespread consultation and we have no plans for further change so soon after its introduction.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what discussions he has had with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on progress made in marking the 2009 national standard assessment tests; and if he will make a statement; [278601]

(2) when he expects 2009 national standard assessment test results to be available to schools; and if he will make a statement. [278602]

Mr. Coaker: The former Minister of State for Schools and Learners met Andrew Hall, acting chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), on Wednesday 3 June to discuss progress in delivery of the national curriculum tests, including the marking of papers. Officials are continuing to monitor progress closely, and provide Ministers with regular updates on progress. QCA advise that they are currently on schedule to deliver results to schools by 7 July.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the *(a)* Key Stage 2 and *(b)* Key Stage 3 Standard Assessment Tests results for 2009 to be published. [278862]

Mr. Coaker: The Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Tests results for 2009 will be published on the departmental website at 9.30 am on 4 August 2009.

There are no longer any National Curriculum Tests at the end of Key Stage 3.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many additional markers the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has recruited to assist in the marking of *(a)* Key Stage 2 and *(b)* Key Stage 3 Standard Assessment Tests in 2009. [278863]

Mr. Coaker: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the administration of the national curriculum tests. Key Stage 2 tests in English, maths and science were sat in May 2009 and are being externally marked. The QCA's supplier originally recruited a total of 5,287 markers, as at 24 April. Subsequent to 24 April, a further 161 markers were recruited to maintain marking capacity and ensure adequate reserve markers.

In 2009 it is for schools to decide whether they use optional Key Stage 3 tests. No markers have been recruited as these tests are not externally marked.

Pre-school Education: Manpower

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many registered *(a)* childcare providers and *(b)* childminders there were in each local authority area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [277820]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Information on the number of *(a)* registered child care providers and *(b)* registered child minders in each local authority for the years 2001 and 2003-09 has been placed in the House Libraries. Data were not collected in 2002 due to the transfer of responsibility from local authorities to Ofsted.

Pupil Places

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster of 30 March 2009, *Official Report,* columns 956-7W, on child birth, if he will estimate the number of school places which will be required in the state sector in each year between 2008 and 2031 assuming *(a)* the principal national population projection of the Office for National Statistics, *(b)* a rate of migration of six per cent. below the principal national population projection and *(c)* net inward migration of 60,000 in each year to 2031. [278228]

Mr. Coaker: National pupil projections take account of several factors, including actual pupil numbers derived from the School Census, expected trends in participation for children outside statutory school ages, and the latest population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The following tables show the actual number of pupils in maintained and state funded schools in 2008 and 2009 together with the projected number of pupils up until 2017. Projections beyond 2017 are not shown here due to the increasing uncertainty over time. The projected pupil numbers take account of 2006-based principal national population projections. These population projections include assumptions about future levels of fertility, mortality and migration. Details of these assumptions are published on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/PT129_Long_term_assumptions.pdf

Local authority maintained and state funded schools: full time equivalent number of pupils—years 2008 and 2009 (actual); coverage: England

	Thousand
	FTE number of pupils
2008	7,385
2009[1]	7,335

[1] Provisional.

Notes:

1. Includes maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, pupil referral units, city technology colleges and academies.
2. Full time equivalent numbers count part time pupils as 0.5.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.
4. Includes pupils with sole and dual registration.

Source:
School Census

Local authority maintained and state funded schools: full time equivalent number of pupils—years 2010 to 2017 (projections); coverage: England

	Thousand
	FTE number of pupils
2010	7,340
2011	7,361
2012	7,398
2013	7,447
2014	7,502
2015	7,572
2016	7,654
2017	7,748

Notes:

1. Includes maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, pupil referral units, city technology colleges and academies.
2. Full time equivalent numbers count part time pupils as 0.5.
3. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.
4. Projections use the mid 2006-based ONS population projections and are based on 2007 School Census data. Updated projections (for ages up to and including 15) are due to be published in the Departmental Report on 12 June.
5. Includes pupils with sole and dual registration.
6. Experience has shown that totals in maintained primary and secondary schools are usually within ±0.2 per cent. for the first projected year. There is less certainty in the longer term. Factors which contribute to differences between projections and outturn data include the underlying population trends, participation among those under and over compulsory school age, and variations of proportions attending independent schools. Projections are increasing in uncertainty.
7. Projections allow for increase in take up of early years education towards universal provision.

Source:
DCSF pupil projections

Updated projections for the number of pupils (aged up to and including 15) will be published in the 2009 Departmental Report on Friday 12 June. These will take into account provisional 2009 School Census data.

The ONS also produce population projections based on 'zero migration' variant. The 'zero migration' variant projection assumes that net migration will be zero at all ages throughout the projection period but makes the same assumptions about future fertility and mortality as the principal projection.

As part of the pupil projections work programme, officials plan to investigate the migration component of the pupil projections using the 'zero migration' (natural change only) variant. This is expected to be completed by early autumn 2009. Once this work has been completed we will then be able to explore scenarios for different levels of migration.

Pupils: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the Joint Advisory Committee for Qualifications Approval to announce its recommendation on the eligibility of Cambridge International Certificate qualifications for state funding. [278452]

Mr. Coaker: Cambridge International Certificates was accredited by Ofqual before the deadline set for qualifications being put to JACQA for advice, and are therefore being considered against the previous process. The Government have been seeking detailed advice on whether the qualifications meet the old criteria for approval for use in maintained schools and expect to write to Cambridge International Examinations shortly.

Schools: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding his Department has allocated for the employment of a greater number of teachers in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside schools in each year since 1997; [278903]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to reducing class sizes in schools in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997. [278904]

Mr. Coaker: Local authorities are responsible for the distribution of funding (including funding provided through the dedicated schools grant (DSG)) to schools in their area. Each local authority in consultation with their Schools Forum can choose to include a factor in their funding formula to direct resources to schools with infant classes to enable them to meet the class size duty. The Department does not collect information on how much funding was allocated to employing more teachers for Crosby and Merseyside schools. In 2008-09 the final DSG amount for Sefton local authority was £157.65 million. The 2009-10 final DSG amount for Sefton is yet to be published.

Teaching Methods

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated to the development of internet or e-based learning in schools in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997. [278906]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not keep records of data on funding allocations in the form requested.

Special Educational Needs: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils with statements of special educational need attended mainstream secondary schools at which less than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 20 per cent. and *(c)* 30 per cent. of pupils obtained fewer than five A* to C grades in GCSE in 2007-08. [271017]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Pupils at the end of key stage 4 with statements of SEN, in 2008, are as follows:

	Number	*Percentage*
Those attending maintained mainstream schools at which:		
10 per cent. or fewer pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C	265	2.0
20 per cent. or fewer pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C	1,169	8.9
30 per cent. or fewer pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C	3,778	28.7

	Number	*Percentage*
Those attending maintained mainstream schools at which fewer than:		
10 per cent. or fewer pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and maths	60	0.5
20 per cent. or fewer pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and maths	209	1.6
30 per cent. or fewer pupils achieve fewer than five GCSEs at grade A*-C including English and maths	697	5.3

Only those schools published in the 2008 achievement and attainment tables have been included in this analysis.

Specialist Schools: Science

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 900W, on specialist schools: science, how many of the 433 specialist schools that have chosen science as one of their specialisms entered a pupil for GCSE physics in 2008. [277957]

Mr. Coaker: Of all 433 schools with a specialism in sciences, 311 (71.8 per cent.) entered at least one pupil for GCSE[1] physics in 2008.

[1] Only full GCSEs have been counted.

Source:

Achievement and Attainment Tables database

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated towards the development of internet or e-based learning in schools in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England schools in each year since 1997. [278568]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not keep records of data on funding allocations in the form requested.

Young People: Mentally Ill

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government are taking to ensure that its inclusion agenda takes into account young people with chronic and severe mental health disorders. [272570]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government announced an independent review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in the Children's Plan. The review considered progress made in delivering services to meet the educational, health and social care needs of children and young people at risk of and experiencing mental health problems, including those with complex, severe and persistent needs; and practical solutions to address challenges and deliver better outcomes. The review and the Government's response to its report, together with work we are taking forward around PSA 12—improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people—demonstrate our determination to ensure the right services reach children with acute problems.

The Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme seeks to develop the social and emotional skills of all pupils through a whole-school approach, and across the curriculum. The small group work element of SEAL aims to address the needs of pupils who need more support in this area to develop their social and emotional skills. Wave 3 provides intensive, specialist support necessary for pupils with severe behaviour difficulties, or mental health problems.

Following publication of the CAMHS Review report, "Children and Young People in Mind", the Government set up a National Advisory Council for children's mental health and psychological wellbeing. The National Advisory Council has agreed that one of its key focuses will be to take forward work around removing the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Schools and local authorities are statutorily required to have regard to the SEN code of practice for children and young people whose chronic and severe mental health needs entail special educational needs (SEN). The code says that local authorities should have effective arrangements in place to ensure the needs of children and young people with SEN are assessed quickly and matched by appropriate provision, and that schools must do their best to ensure necessary provision is made for pupils with SEN. Special educational needs include those entailing behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

The Government's guidance, "Access to education for children and young people with medical needs" is clear that "School policies and practices need to be as positive and proactive as possible in order to welcome the child or young person back into school and to assist successful reintegration. Consultation with the child and parents about concerns, medical issues, timing and pace of return is important. For some, reintegration is likely to be a gradual process over a period of time. Initially some children and young people will benefit from flexible arrangements which may include attending school part-time while retaining some other support. Others may require alternative provision to allow them to cope with peer relationships and a school environment before a gradual return to school is possible. Support may need to continue to be available on return to school". Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that an individually tailored reintegration plan is in place for all pupils before they return to school. The plan should have multi-agency approval, and schools have a key role to play.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years. [277637]

Mr. McFadden: All Government Departments are actively involved in the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which aims to help society adapt to climate change. The aim of the programme is to develop and provide a comprehensive evidence base, including adaptation tools, to raise awareness of the need to adapt, to measure success and to work across government at all levels to embed adaptation. Further details about the programme's work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

As well as working together to tackle issues that affect all Departments and their work, each Government Department is adapting to climate change in its own operations and policies. BIS has installed new automated metering and targeting systems across its HQ estate which will allow us to monitor our energy consumption, and ensure its appropriate. In addition, a programme to install a new Building Management System and improved controls at 1 Victoria street is being undertaken and should help to improve energy efficiency. We will also, where appropriate, seek to utilise technological improvements such as installing LED lighting.

Company Liquidations: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point entered administration in the last 12 months. [279039]

Mr. McFadden: There were 5,273 administrations (Enterprise Act 2002) in England and Wales between April 2008 and March 2009. Statistics covering business administrations are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Construction: Training

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each regional development agency spent on construction skills training in each of the last five years. [270850]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDA expenditure on construction skills training in the last five years.

RDA spend on construction skills training (£ thousand)

RDA	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
AWM[1]	7,374	3,686	3,010	5,012	4,281
EEDA	0	0	1,435	751	2,320
EMDA	213	345	973	332	338
LDA	842	1,471	2,074	3,349	7,455
NWDA	0	0	1,050	0	0
ONE	100	100	628	142	121
SEEDA	30	138	0	137	100
SWRDA	79	253	981	360	106
YF	1,366	343	243	88	389

[1] AWM figures are higher than the RDA average as their construction skills training primarily gap funding towards the building of new colleges, such as Stoke College's Buslem Campus and The Centre for the Built Environment at South Birmingham College.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has allocated to the new internship scheme as referred to in his Department's press release of 13 May 2009. [277844]

Mr. Lammy: Graduate Talent Pool is a new initiative to boost the number of internships available for graduates this summer and autumn. We aim to provide 5,000 extra internships, sitting alongside thousands of other opportunities for graduates to build the skills that are valued by employers.

The new Graduate Talent Pool website at:

www.dius.gov.uk/graduatetalentpool

offers advice and information to any employers who are interested in creating a graduate internship, and allows them to post vacancy details ready for the full launch of the graduate facing service at:

www.direct.gov.uk/graduatetalentpool

in July. The Department has allocated just under £800,000 to cover the provision of the website and other infrastructure, and the dissemination of information to graduates and employers about the initiative.

East of England Development Agency: Public Relations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovations and Skills how much the East of England Development Agency has spent on retaining external advice on public relations in each year since it was established; which public relations organisations were retained; and for what purposes in each case. [278714]

Mr. McFadden: EEDA does not retain external advice on public relations. We have a team of in-house professionals which manage the corporate promotion of EEDA and our projects.

European Union

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovations and Skills what the cost to the public purse of the contribution of each regional development agency towards its regional office in Brussels was in the latest period for which figures are available. [274154]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows each RDA's contribution to their regional office in Brussels for the financial year 2007-08.

RDA	*RDA contribution towards regional office in Brussels (£000)*
AWM	393
EEDA	66
EMDA	306
LDA	50
NWDA	63
ONE	170
SEEDA	134
SWR[illegible]	183
YF	330

Higher Education: International Cooperation

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department has made available in 2009-10 for Palestinian academics wishing to study in the UK. [277843]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not provide funding for Palestinian academics wishing to study in the UK.

Insolvency

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of trends in the number of administration proceedings. [277429]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 1 June 2009]:* Changes introduced by The Enterprise Act 2002 were aimed at streamlining the administration procedure and introducing greater flexibility to the regime.

One of the primary aims of the corporate insolvency provisions of the Enterprise Act was to promote the use of administration and restrict the use of administrative receivership where office holders are appointed to act on behalf of charge holders. This was to be achieved in a very direct way by removing the right to appoint an administrative receiver where a floating charge was created on or after 15 September 2003. Instead, administrators would be appointed who would act in the interests of creditors as a whole.

Since the introduction of a more streamlined procedure, the number of company administrations in England and Wales has gone up. Evaluation of the Enterprise Act published in 2008 by The Insolvency Service found that the changes implemented by the Enterprise Act 2002 have encouraged a greater uptake of the administration regime as a viable insolvency option. This has been accompanied by a large decrease in the number of administrative receiverships since the introduction of the act.

Recent Insolvency Service statistics show a sharper increase in the number of corporate insolvencies over the last four quarters, suggesting that it is the current economic climate which is causing the number of company administrations to rise.

Statement of Insolvency Practice Number 16, introduced by The Insolvency Service and the Recognised Professional Bodies that regulate insolvency practitioners, is intended to foster greater transparency in the pre-pack administration process.

Post Offices: Standards

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what arrangements Postcomm has made to commission quality of service surveys concerning queuing times in post office branches. [278538]

Mr. McFadden: Commissioning quality of service surveys concerning queue times in post office branches does not fall within Postcomm's remit. Postcomm's responsibility in relation to post offices is limited to monitoring developments in the network and offering advice to my noble Friend the Secretary of State in the form of an annual report on the post office network.

A tracker survey examining queue times and the quality of service at Crown and franchised Post Office branches was published by Consumer Focus, the consumer watchdog, on 16 November 2008. The study was based on a UK-wide survey of 424 post offices and found that 22 per cent. of customers in Crown post offices are spending 10 minutes or more queuing, and over one in three (38 per cent.) wait for more than five minutes. Consumer Focus is currently looking to undertake a further study this year following the completion of the National Change Programme, with a view to establishing its effect on queue times.

HEALTH

Co-operation and Competition Panel

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Co-operation and Competition Panel in ensuring that co-operation has been taken into account when assessing the public and patient interest; and if he will make a statement. [278158]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Cooperation and Competition Panel (the Panel)'s remit is to advise as to compliance with the 'Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition' (PRCC), in individual cases. The PRCC set out expected behaviours and rules governing co-operation and competition in the provision of national health service services. Copies of the PRCC have been placed in the Library and the document is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081098

The Panel opened for referral of cases on 30 January 2009 and consulted publicly on draft guidelines for its operations.

A review of the Panel will be carried out after its first year of operation. This summer, however, the Department will review the PRCC and promoting co-operation will be a key focus for the review.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of primary care trusts which have a dental practice adviser. [278859]

Ann Keen: This information is not routinely collected centrally. To ensure the effective provision of dental services, primary care trusts (PCTs) need dental professional advice. Dental public health advice will most appropriately be obtained from a consultant in dental public health. In addition, PCTs may find it helpful to appoint on a sessional basis a dental practice adviser to assist them with issues about the delivery of general dental services. Dental practice advisers (DPA) are members of the dental public health team working particularly in the field of patient safety and quality improvement in dentistry. A survey conducted in autumn 2007 identified 57 dental public consultants working in England and around 90 dentists working as DPAs with some working for more than one PCT. The majority (87 per cent.) of PCTs in England had a dental practice adviser working on a sessional basis.

Dental Services: Inspections

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of practice *(a)* visits and *(b)* inspections carried out by the NHS Dental Reference Service in 2008. [278855]

Ann Keen: Between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008, the Dental Reference Service (DRS) made 1,992 practice visits and 571 inspections, in England.

These data refer to the physical number of visits and inspections that the DRS made to dental practices. More than one visit can take place at the same practice, in the period covered.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days on average *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies has taken to pay invoices from suppliers in each month since November 2008. [278913]

Ann Keen: In accordance with directives issued by the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (now the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills), Government Departments commenced measuring performance against the target of making payment to suppliers within 10 days from November 2008.

Based on these criteria, the average number of days taken by the Department and its agencies to pay its suppliers each month since November 2008 are as follows:

Dates	*Department of health*	*Medicines and healthcare products regulatory agency*	*NHS purchasing and supply agency*
November 2008	6	10	22
December 2008	6	12	15
January 2009	6	7	15
February 2009	7	12	13
March 2009	6	14	16
April 2009	6	12	21
May 2009	6	12	20

Health Professions: Registration

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1223W, on health professions: registration, on what date each profession referred to in the Answer *(a)* was registered or *(b)* is planned to be registered; and if he will make a statement. [278623]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Operating Department Practitioners were registered from 18 October 2004. Registration of Practitioner Psychologists will commence on 1 July 2009.

For the remaining professions, the White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety—The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century" established an expert working group to consider the most effective and proportionate means of extending professional regulation to unregistered groups. The group reported recently and, following consideration by the Department's Ministers and their counterparts in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, their report will be published shortly.

Health Services: Plymouth

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of Plymouth Primary Care Trust's budget was spent in Plympton and Plymstock in the last 12 months. [277293]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally and Plymouth Primary Care Trust (PCT) do not hold figures on the spend in each of the wards in Plymouth.

Plymouth PCT received allocations of £367.5 million in 2008-09, £393.3 million in 2009-10 and £416.5 million in 2010-11.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance the NHS issues on the maximum recommended time to be taken between receipt by the emergency services of notification of a suspected heart attack and the commencement of inflation of an angioplasty balloon in the patient's body in cases where such treatment is assessed to be appropriate. [278794]

Ann Keen: The Department has issued guidance on the time from patient call to treatment with angioplasty for heart attack in "Treatment of Heart Attack National Guidance" published in October 2008. A copy of this has already been placed in the Library. This suggests a time of 120 minutes. This is an aspirational time to guide planning of new services rather than a defined quality standard.

Since then NHS improvement (an organisation which works with national health service trusts and clinical networks to deliver and sustain service improvements) has been supporting implementation of the new guidance and has launched a "Guide to Implementing Primary Angioplasty" on 1 June 2009. This states that primary angioplasty may be the best treatment strategy if patient call to treatment times do not exceed 150 minutes.

Hospital Wards: Gender

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 106-8W, on hospital wards, which hospitals had been visited by improvement teams on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the objectives were of each improvement visit. [278496]

Ann Keen: Following an initial period in which the Department has developed and tested hypotheses to sustain improvement activities, the first improvement team visit took place at Brighton and Sussex university hospitals NHS trust on 19 May 2009. As with all improvement visits delivered in association with the Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation programme, this involved support tailored to the needs of the trust concerned—focusing on assisting it to make the most of resources in improving patients' experience in this area. At this point, the Department has identified 19 trusts that are in the process of being offered improvement team support, though this number is likely to increase.

Liver Diseases: Health Services

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1078-9W, on liver diseases: health services, what methodology will be used by the National Quality Board for decisions about clinical priorities on health services for liver disease. [278669]

Ann Keen: At the National Quality Board's second meeting on 18 May, the board considered five existing pieces of work led by the Department to improve quality in particular clinical areas. This included a clinical strategy for liver disease. The board was happy for these existing pieces work to continue, and agreed to play an active role in ensuring that they were aligned with other organisations' activities to improve quality in these clinical areas. The five pieces of work will now continue on to their respective next stages.

To aid them in determining their future clinical priorities and advising Ministers, the board is currently developing an objective methodology for clinical prioritisation.

Mental Health Services: Crimes of Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mental health service users have been prosecuted for offences committed *(a)* on service premises and *(b)* against service staff in each year since 1999. [278554]

Ann Keen: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Since 2004-05, the number of criminal sanctions reported by national health service bodies in England in cases of physical assaults against NHS staff has been collected annually by the NHS Security Management Service. The number of criminal sanctions reported in mental health and learning disability settings is shown in the following table.

	Number
2004-05	213
2005-06	290
2006-07	274
2007-08	261

Criminal sanctions include:

cautions and conditional cautions;

community rehabilitation or punishment orders;

imprisonment (including suspended sentences);

conditional discharges; and

fines.

NHS Direct

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will allocate an 0300 telephone prefix to the NHS Direct service in order to reduce the cost of telephone calls to mobile telephone users; and if he will estimate the likely level of savings to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service users of introducing such a change. [278373]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NHS Next Stage Review final report, "High Quality Care For All", published in June 2008, set out that the Department is currently considering options for the introduction of a new three-digit telephone number to help people find the right local service to meet their urgent, unplanned care needs. NHS Direct will retain its current 0845 number until we are clear about any future role and function it may have in implementing a national three-digit number.

Any proposals to introduce such a new three-digit number, including charging options, would be subject to public consultation undertaken by Ofcom under the Communications Act 2003 to ensure transparency for all telephone users including mobiles. However, the Department has been clear for quite some time that it does not expect patients to be charged more than the equivalent cost of dialling a geographical number to contact the national health service.

NHS: Conditions of Employment

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Co-operation and Competition Panel in promoting co-operation between healthcare providers. [277663]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No recent assessment has been made on the effectiveness of the Co-operation and Competition Panel (the Panel) in promoting co-operation between health care providers as the Panel only opened for referrals on 30 January 2009 and has started just started to receive cases. A review of the Panel will be carried out after its first year of operation. This summer, however, the Department will review its principles and rules for co-operation and competition, which set the framework within which the national health service and the Panel operate. Promoting co-operation between providers will be a key focus for the review.

NHS: Pay

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the mean salary of an NHS *(a)* health visitor, *(b)* Family Nurse Partnership nurse, *(c)* midwife and *(d)* paediatrician in the latest period for which figures are available. [278478]

Ann Keen: The mean salary for a national health service health visitor, family nurse partnership nurse, midwife and paediatrician are presented in the following table. These figures are for 2009-10.

Mean salary for nursing staff (2009-10)

Staff group[1]	*Mean annual basic salary*[2,3,4] *(£)*
Health visitor	33,500
Family nurse partnership nurse	35,600
Midwife	30,900
Paediatrician (consultant)	93,600

[1] These staff groups are all types of qualified nurses.

[2] Average (mean) basic salary for these staff groups in April-June 2008 sourced from NHS IC Quarterly Earnings Survey.

[3] Average (mean) basic salary then adjusted for 2009-10 pay settlement of 2.4 per cent.

[4] Figures presented are rounded to the nearest £100 following NHS IC convention.

These figures are based on average (mean) basic salary in the NHS Information Centre's (IC) Quarterly Earnings Survey (April-June 2008), adjusted for 2009-10 pay settlement of 2.4 per cent.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has established a timescale for phasing in exemptions from prescription charges for those with long-term conditions. [278087]

Gillian Merron: The Government have asked Professor Ian Gilmore, President of the Royal College of Physicians, to undertake a review of prescription charges. The review is seeking the views of the public, clinicians and patient representative bodies on how to implement the proposed exemption for people with long-term conditions, including how it could be phased in. Decisions about the timescale for phasing in changes will not be made until after the review reports.

The review was due to report to departmental Ministers in the summer. However, following discussions between Ministers and Professor Gilmore, he will undertake further work in order to ensure that proposals can be implemented smoothly and efficiently. Professor Gilmore is now due to report to departmental Ministers in the autumn.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Prisoners

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 112W, on chlamydia: prisoners, how many positive results for sexually transmitted infections of tests taken by prisoners were reported by the Health Protection Agency in each of the last five years. [278276]

Gillian Merron: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) does not currently report on positive results for sexually transmitted infections in tests taken by prisoners.

Sexual health services in prisons are provided by local national health service acute trusts through commissioning arrangements with the local primary care trust in England or Health Board in Wales.

Such services provide data on tests performed and positive results to the Centre for Infections of the HPA through KC60 returns (now phased out) or, more recently, through a system of reporting called GUMCAD (genitourinary medicine clinical activity data). However, prison-specific data are not disaggregated and the HPA is currently exploring such disaggregation.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which of the expert advisory groups of the Commission on Human Medicines provide advice to his Department in respect of its policy on tranquillisers. [278058]

Gillian Merron: There are a number of Commission on Human Medicine Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) which may provide evidence on tranquilliser issues. These include the EAGs on:

Chemistry, Pharmacy and Standards;
Clinical Trials;
Medicines for Women's Health;
Neurology and Pain Management;
Patient Information;
Pharmacovigilance;
Psychiatry and Old Age Psychiatry.

Other EAGs may also be consulted depending on the issues concerned and currently established EAGs and their members are listed on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency website through the following link:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Committees/Medicinesadvisorybodies/CommissiononHumanMedicines/Members/index.htm

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on tranquillisers, what targets his Department has set for the local provision of tranquilliser withdrawal services; and what funding has been made available for the achievement of those targets in each of the next three years. [278059]

Gillian Merron: The Department has set no targets for the local provision of tranquilliser withdrawal services. The provision of treatments and services that reflect local needs and priorities is a matter for local decision, within the overall funding provided by the Government for health care. The Government have trebled investment in the national health service since 1997, from £34.7 billion in 1997-98 to over £98 billion in 2009-10.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 11 June 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Dr. Palmer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many generic licences issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are in operation; how many designated establishments hold such licences; how many generic licences were extant in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; how many procedures were conducted under those licences in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [278252]

Mr. Alan Campbell: For the purposes of this question we have taken 'generic licences' to refer to thematic licences issued for the testing for regulatory purposes of specific classes of test materials in line with specified regulatory requirements. The Home Office does not record information on such licences separately, but we have carried out a special exercise to extract the information requested. We estimate that there are currently 71 'generic licences' extant and that there were 67 at 31 December 2008 and 65 at 31 December 2007. The annual statistical return for 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, indicates 183,909 procedures were conducted during 2007 under the licences identified as generic that were in force at 31 December 2007.

Borders: Personal Records

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of coaches entering the UK will be required to have all their passengers disembarked for immigration checks under the e-borders system; and if she will make a statement. [278543]

Mr. Woolas: All passengers seeking entry or admission to the UK are required to provide evidence of their nationality and identity, which is checked against the UK's watchlist. Under e-borders, carriers will be required to provide biographic and travel document information in advance of travel.

This advance passenger check will allow for a significant increase in the volume of coach passengers who can be subsequently checked at the border, without disembarking from the coach.

A pilot scheme is operating with one particular coach company and we continue to develop the best operating models, in discussion with maritime, rail and coach operators.

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the likely operation of the e-borders system in respect of UK nationals who hold dual nationality. [278759]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders system will not negatively affect travellers who hold dual nationality. Data from travel documents presented by dual nationals on inbound and outbound journeys will be transmitted to e-Borders and screened against watchlists as normal. Key facts, such as an individual's date of birth, will remain the same, irrespective of the travel document they use. Any discrepancies will continue to be addressed by UK Border Agency staff at the border.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278719]

Mr. Woolas: Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, the Home Office is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in our annual resource accounts.

The Home Office has published details of the protected personal data related incidents notified to the Information Commissioner's Office in 2007-08 in its resource accounts published on 8 August 2008 (a copy of which is in the House Library). We will be publishing information on any personal data security breaches reported to the Information Commissioner for the 2008-09 reporting year before Parliament rises in July. The information is currently being compiled and is to be audited and verified before it is laid before Parliament.

In 2008-09, the Home Office made two notifications to the Information Commissioner. One related to the PA consulting data loss incident, which included information set out in my predecessor's formal notification to the Information Commissioner (a copy of which is in the House Library) about the number of individual subjects affected. The other was a potential incident in the UK Border Agency involving the loss of a data stick on UKBA premises. The data stick was subsequently found at an internal location so this was not in fact a notifiable incident.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278720]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Disciplined				*Dismissed*			
	HO	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*HO*	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*
Breaches of data protection requirements	0	[1]—	8	0	0	[1]—	7	0

	Disciplined				*Dismissed*			
	HO	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*	*HO*	*UKBA*	*IPS*	*CRB*
Inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	[1]—	0	[1]—	0

[1] Less than five.

Note:

Where there have been less than five such cases it is the policy of the Home Office to confine this information on grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 30W, on departmental ICT, when he expects all of his Department's IT systems to be fully compliant with ISO 27001 under the new standard set by the data handling report published in June 2008. [278612]

Mr. Woolas: All IT systems across Government are subject to Cabinet Office approved policies and procedures for Information Security Management which are fully compliant with the controls in ISO 27001 and also incorporate the recommendations from the data handling report published in June 2008. Compliance is assessed via a regime known as accreditation.

All IT systems and networks within the Home Office are subject to this continual accreditation process as they enter service for the first time or when significant changes are made to existing systems; there is also a process of periodic review of all accredited systems.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department has spent on the maintenance of its website in each year since 1997. [278231]

Mr. Woolas: The cost of maintaining Home Office websites (i.e. hosting, licensing, domain registration, and updates, but excluding staff costs) has been as follows:

	£
2006-07	750,100
2007-08	620,000
2008-09	577,000

Prior to 2006, costs were embedded in other communications budgets and could not be separately extracted, other than at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Private Sector

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 154W, on deportation: private sector, with which three operators the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has contracts; and how much UKBA spent on those contracts in 2008. [278597]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has contracts with G4S Justice and Care Services, Serco Home Affairs and Molynes International Security to escort individuals who are being removed from the United Kingdom. The value of contracts between the UK Border Agency and its escorting suppliers is commercially sensitive and cannot therefore be disclosed.

Domestic Violence

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what contribution *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Department for Work and Pensions has made towards his Department's consultation on Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls. [278672]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The consultation document "Together We can End Violence Against Women and Girls" was considered and cleared by the Domestic Affairs Committee which includes representation from both Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to ensure adequate funding for specialist voluntary sector organisations dealing with violence against women. [278805]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In general, funding decisions for local services are determined by local commissioners based on local areas identifying needs. These are then included in their priorities for improvement with outcomes specifying how the issues will be addressed and how they contribute to wider national aims. Addressing domestic and sexual violence will be a key priority in helping local partnerships to deliver fully on the public service agreement requirements.

The consultation "Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls" closed on 29 May 2009. A key theme for consultation was the promotion of better consistency and quality of provision of services for victims of violence against women and girls. This work will be taken forward during development of a cross-Government strategy.

Among other initiatives, the Home Office provides £3.5 million to regional Government offices who then allocate it locally to domestic and sexual violence services.

Educational Accreditation Bodies

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department paid to educational accreditation bodies in each of the last five years. [278549]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office, including the Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, has not made any payments to educational accreditation bodies.

Entry Clearances: Tourists

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tourist visas were issued to persons of each nationality in each of the last four years; how many such visas were issued to children; and what estimate she has made of the number of such children who overstayed their visa. [280160]

Mr. Woolas: The number of tourist visas issued to each nationality in each of the calendar years 2005-08, including the number issued to persons under the age of 18, is shown in the following tables. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 175-76W.

Other visit visas issued 2005-08 by nationality

	2005			2006		
Nationality	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Afghanistan	804	175	979	1,035	320	1,355
Albania	3,354	485	3,839	2,777	485	3,262
Algeria	5,661	446	6,107	6,238	1,027	7,265
Andorra	2	—	2	4	—	4
Angola	2,499	308	2,807	2,332	304	2,636
Antigua and Barbuda	5	1	6	5	1	6
Argentina	35	—	35	24	—	24
Armenia	1,114	74	1,188	1,130	95	1,225
Australia	298	3	301	365	—	365
Austria	—	—	—	3	1	4
Azerbaijan	2,930	232	3,162	3,498	265	3,763
Bahamas	2	—	2	3	1	4
Bahrain	4,437	1,317	5,754	5,081	1,585	6,666
Bangladesh	9,756	1,618	11,374	8,767	2,514	11,281
Barbados	17	3	20	18	—	18
Belarus	3,612	3,582	7,194	4,040	3,946	7,986
Belgium	3	—	3	1	—	1
Belize	4	—	4	2	1	3
Benin	373	27	400	371	34	405
Bermuda	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bhutan	116	4	120	87	4	91
Bolivia	34	—	34	74	8	82
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,353	198	2,551	2,260	243	2,503
Botswana	76	7	83	119	22	141
Brazil	301	21	322	347	13	360
British Citizen	36	1	37	25	3	28
British National Overseas	36	—	36	30	—	30
British Overseas Citizen	6	—	6	9	—	9
British Protected Person	4	—	4	—	—	—
British Subject	7	—	7	2	—	2
Brunei	7	—	7	1	—	1
Bulgaria	13,715	939	14,654	14,676	1,349	16,025
Burkina	174	6	180	211	18	229
Burma (Myanmar)	665	40	705	524	89	613
Burundi	149	25	174	136	18	154
Cambodia	138	15	153	220	41	261
Cameroon	2,697	208	2,905	2,856	327	3,183
Canada	226	1	227	249	2	251
Cape Verde	116	10	126	142	14	156
Central African Republic	41	5	46	71	7	78
Chad	97	5	102	78	7	85
Chile	370	9	379	225	22	247
China	74,897	7,427	82,324	94,073	11,220	105,293
Colombia	10,111	1,239	11,350	10,287	1,821	12,108
Comoros	26	—	26	24	—	24
Congo	649	115	764	706	172	878
Costa Rica	1	—	1	7	2	9
Croatia	11,240	986	12,226	2,064	67	2,131
Cuba	1,358	44	1,402	1,632	50	1,682
Cyprus	261	74	335	397	240	637
Czech Republic	9	—	9	735	21	756
Democratic Republic of Congo	2,330	632	2,962	2,154	642	2,796
Denmark	—	—	—	2	—	2
Dependent Territory	—	—	—	—	—	—
Djibouti	161	29	190	132	12	144
Dominica	4	1	5	8	3	11

Other visit visas issued 2005-08 by nationality

	2005			2006		
Nationality	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Dominican Republic	1,336	136	1,472	1,170	139	1,309
East Timor (Timor-Leste)	1	1	2	3	—	3
Ecuador	2,133	185	2,318	2,396	324	2,720
Egypt	18,973	2,183	21,156	20,282	2,506	22,788
El Salvador	16	2	18	9	—	9
Equatorial Guinea	194	10	204	183	5	188
Eritrea	458	57	515	417	90	507
Estonia	92	9	101	162	26	188
Ethiopia	2,779	284	3,063	1,829	157	1,986
Fiji	741	65	806	612	71	683
Finland	—	—	—	8	4	12
France	9	1	10	21	4	25
Gabon	309	29	338	319	41	360
Gambia	2,322	397	2,719	1,992	485	2,477
Georgia	2,231	130	2,361	2,637	219	2,856
Germany	5	—	5	4	—	4
Ghana	11,942	1,709	13,651	10,807	2,372	13,179
Greece	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada	6	—	6	8	—	8
Guatemala	7	1	8	17	—	17
Guinea	919	115	1,034	925	96	1,021
Guinea-Bissau	75	8	83	124	19	143
Guyana	1,764	304	2,068	1,921	399	2,320
Haiti	245	22	267	218	10	228
Honduras	7	—	7	17	—	17
Hong Kong	214	13	227	232	19	251
Hungary	521	42	563	363	33	396
Iceland	5	—	5	—	—	—
India	169,722	19,137	188,859	191,902	29,431	221,333
Indonesia	11,025	1,233	12,258	11,500	1,418	12,918
Iran	13 401	1,362	14,763	15,438	3,678	19,116
Iraq	4,388	504	4,892	4,341	877	5,218
Ireland	3	—	3	5	4	9
Israel	147	6	153	101	6	107
Italy	4	—	4	3	—	3
Ivory Coast	1,318	143	1,461	1,414	211	1,625
Jamaica	3,548	210	3,758	3,527	635	4,162
Japan	551	4	555	687	5	692
Jordan	8,068	955	9,023	8,597	1,240	9,837
Kazakhstan	10,998	896	11,894	16,225	3,260	19,485
Kenya	5,610	440	6,050	5,709	1,272	6,981
Korea (North)	17	1	18	13	3	16
Kosovo	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kuwait	29,005	10,223	39,228	28,696	10,844	39,540
Kyrgyzstan	789	44	833	1,043	112	1,155
Laos	75	7	82	69	6	75
Latvia	125	6	131	108	17	125
Lebanon	7,933	650	8,583	8,108	965	9,073
Lesotho	2	—	2	6	1	7
Liberia	344	20	364	284	24	308
Libya	5,242	935	6,177	4,663	1,247	5,910
Lithuania	24	7	31	16	1	17
Luxembourg	—	—	—	—	—	—
Macau	8	1	9	8	—	8
Macedonia	1,623	89	1,712	1,861	175	2,036
Madagascar	257	11	268	278	16	294
Malawi	117	16	133	1,008	165	1,173
Malaysia	105	3	108	78	6	84
Maldives	8	3	11	3	1	4
Mali	436	29	465	550	48	598
Malta	1	—	1	—	—	—
Marshall Islands	2	—	2	—	—	—

Other visit visas issued 2005-08 by nationality

	2005			2006		
Nationality	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Mauritania	264	10	274	272	32	304
Mauritius	338	48	386	763	108	871
Mexico	581	70	651	665	38	703
Micronesia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moldova	963	79	1,042	1,090	107	1,197
Mongolia	624	54	678	790	64	854
Montenegro	—	—	—	—	—	—
Montserrat	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morocco	8,666	1,009	9,675	8,205	1,602	9,807
Mozambique	452	44	496	500	36	536
Namibia	7	2	9	10	—	10
Nauru	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nepal	2,234	163	2,397	2,538	256	2,794
Netherlands	22	1	23	10	1	11
New Zealand	131	3	134	75	1	76
Nicaragua	8	—	8	5	—	5
Niger	112	7	119	117	10	127
Nigeria	70,030	17,002	87,032	49,816	19,179	68,995
None	17	—	17	7	—	7
Norway	1	—	1	1	—	1
Oman	3,787	856	4,643	3,565	1,082	4,647
Other	873	136	1,009	866	176	1,042
Pakistan	51,797	11,848	63,645	42,865	19,415	62,280
Palestinian Authority	587	107	694	474	75	549
Panama	1	—	1	123	5	128
Papua New Guinea	6	—	6	4	—	4
Paraguay	3	—	3	1	—	1
Peru	3,172	230	3,402	3,652	255	3,907
Philippines	11,953	780	12,733	13,587	1,297	14,884
Poland	332	15	347	210	13	223
Portugal	—	—	—	4	—	4
Qatar	5,185	2,373	7,558	7,439	3,799	11,238
Refugee (Art 1 1951 Convention)	833	165	998	733	247	980
Romania	22,135	1,907	24,042	24,899	2,471	27,370
Russia	92,377	16,765	109,142	105,008	11,014	116,022
Rwanda	292	40	332	392	31	423
Sao Tome And Principe	60	6	66	62	7	69
Saudi Arabia	21,253	7,757	29,010	25,757	9,605	35,362
Senegal	1,436	67	1,503	1,742	128	1,870
Serbia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seychelles	—	—	—	2	—	2
Sierra Leone	2,474	324	2,798	2,217	497	2,714
Singapore	19	—	19	27	—	27
Slovakia	160	15	175	183	10	193
Slovenia	66	8	74	20	2	22
Solomon Islands	1	1	2	1	—	1
Somalia	457	60	517	357	76	433
South Africa	285	29	314	292	34	326
South Korea	59	5	64	121	4	125
Soviet Union	2	—	2	—	—	—
Spain	4	1	5	10	5	15
Sri Lanka	11,534	1,520	13,054	9,680	3,481	13,161
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	—	1	2		2
St Lucia	10	—	10	14	1	15
St Vincent	3	—	3	7	1	8
Stateless (Art 1 1951 Convention)	881	165	1,046	792	225	1,017
Sudan	4,204	946	5,150	4,856	1,355	6,211
Surinam	203	8	211	151	9	160
Swaziland	12	—	12	9	—	9
Sweden	14	—	14	1	1	2
Switzerland	3	—	3	12	8	20
Syria	4,288	515	4,803	4,356	551	4,907
Taiwan	23,757	1,101	24,858	25,853	1,715	27,568

Other visit visas issued 2005-08 by nationality

	2005			2006		
Nationality	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Tajikistan	188	8	196	291	34	325
Tanzania	3,433	336	3,769	3,345	395	3,740
Thailand	24,501	1,740	26,241	22,673	1,856	24,529
Togo	292	15	307	282	20	302
Tonga	2	—	2	—	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago	148	8	156	64	21	85
Tunisia	3,476	359	3,835	2,837	462	3,299
Turkey	42 579	4,196	46,775	45,954	6,008	51,962
Turkmenistan	735	114	849	447	81	528
Uganda	3,548	265	3,813	3,692	446	4,138
Ukraine	17,317	2,960	20,277	20,111	3,379	23,490
United Arab Emirates	11,762	4,809	16,571	13,926	6,216	20,142
United Nations	74	—	74	66	—	66
United States	1,054	13	1,067	1,172	22	1,194
Unspecified Nationality	3 264	517	3,781	3,003	970	3,973
Uruguay	6	—	6	4	—	4
Uzbekistan	1,313	73	1,386	1,236	208	1,444
Vanuatu	—	—	—	1	—	1
Vatican	9	—	9	9	—	9
Venezuela	11	—	11	79	12	91
Vietnam	3,368	210	3,578	3,411	261	3,672
Western Samoa	—	—	—	1	—	1
Yemen	1,914	545	2,459	2,098	569	2,667
Yugoslavia	10,097	865	10,962	11,058	1,479	12,537
Zambia	2,121	218	2,339	2,440	493	2,933
Zimbabwe	5,370	967	6,337	3,292	1,305	4,597
Grand total	965,056	147,440	1,112,496	1,009,875	192,969	1,202,844

	2007			2008		
Nationality	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Afghanistan	710	277	987	744	279	1,023
Albania	2,561	466	3,027	2,515	640	3,155
Algeria	5,910	1,118	7,028	5,740	949	6,689
Andorra	5	—	5	—	—	—
Angola	2,467	421	2,888	2,257	412	2 669
Antigua and Barbuda	—	—	—	2	—	2
Argentina	34	—	34	11	—	11
Armenia	1,189	111	1,300	1,162	150	1,312
Australia	365	2	367	373	4	377
Austria	4	—	4	—	—	—
Azerbaijan	3,303	409	3,712	3,080	605	3,685
Bahamas	—	—	—	4	—	4
Bahrain	4,702	1,438	6,140	5,819	1,834	7,653
Bangladesh	6,255	2,456	8,711	6,473	2,168	8,641
Barbados	33	1	34	6	—	6
Belarus	3,886	3,991	7,877	4393	3,499	7,892
Belgium	11	1	12	7	—	7
Belize	4	1	5	4	—	4
Benin	311	22	333	281	11	292
Bermuda	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bhutan	82	17	99	62	2	64
Bolivia	95	4	99	11	1	12
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,264	304	2,568	2,635	316	2,951
Botswana	94	17	111	58	5	63
Brazil	358	20	378	312	14	326
British Citizen	50	13	63	25	6	31
British National Overseas	22	—	22	24	—	24
British Overseas Citizen	2	—	2	6	—	6
British Protected Person	1	—	1	1	—	1
British Subject	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brunei	4	—	4	1	1	2
Bulgaria	144	6	150	68	8	76

	2007			2008		
Nationality	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Burkina	235	20	255	209	6	215
Burma (Myanmar)	721	69	790	706	73	779
Burundi	141	14	155	176	11	187
Cambodia	164	21	185	241	27	268
Cameroon	2,666	287	2,953	2,175	264	2,439
Canada	266	5	271	273	2	275
Cape Verde	134	10	144	83	8	91
Central African Republic	36	8	44	52	10	62
Chad	81	6	87	95	13	108
Chile	10	—	10	10	—	10
China	96,982	14,134	111,116	77,919	12,261	90,180
Colombia	10,698	1,998	12,696	10,240	1,897	12,137
Comoros	16	—	16	34	—	34
Congo	527	90	617	438	106	544
Costa Rica	7	—	7	1	1	2
Croatia	181	13	194	136	1	137
Cuba	1,273	53	1,326	1,170	35	1,205
Cyprus	320	187	507	258	181	439
Czech Republic	1,320	70	1,390	199	7	206
Democratic Republic of Congo	2,005	503	2,508	1,433	364	1,797
Denmark	3	1	4	2	—	2
Dependant Territory	1	—	1	—	—	—
Djibouti	87	15	102	91	10	101
Dominica	3	—	3	3	1	4
Dominican Republic	1,318	199	1,517	963	86	1,049
East Timor (Timor-Leste)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ecuador	2,169	319	2,488	1,835	282	2,117
Egypt	19,787	2,558	22,345	20,040	2,857	22,897
El Salvador	2	—	2	6	—	6
Equatorial Guinea	171	4	175	109	4	113
Eritrea	363	76	439	297	41	338
Estonia	81	2	83	28	2	30
Ethiopia	2,008	176	2,184	1,936	164	2,100
Fiji	811	60	871	594	49	643
Finland	13	5	18	6	4	10
France	34	5	39	23	1	24
Gabon	347	49	396	237	30	267
Gambia	1,534	388	1,922	1,251	333	1,584
Georgia	2,698	276	2,974	2,639	620	3,259
Germany	4	—	4	4	—	4
Ghana	9,559	2,024	11,583	8,837	1,862	10,699
Greece	14	1	15	20	—	20
Greenland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada	6	—	6	2	—	2
Guatemala	11	1	12	12	2	14
Guinea	529	52	581	488	42	530
Guinea-Bissau	78	8	86	38	13	51
Guyana	1,653	313	1,966	568	81	649
Haiti	193	13	206	157	8	165
Honduras	8	—	8	1	—	1
Hong Kong	238	32	270	44	—	44
Hungary	189	22	211	118	31	149
Iceland	1	—	1	—	1	1
India	185,143	26,897	212,040	174,657	25,259	199,916
Indonesia	13,198	1,843	15041	11,871	1 561	13,432
Iran	12,653	3,217	15,870	10,869	2,765	13,634
Iraq	2,317	342	2,659	2,778	442	3,220
Ireland	3	1	4	1	—	1
Israel	98	6	104	60	7	67
Italy	7	2	9	2	—	2
Ivory Coast	1,204	176	1,380	1,181	182	1,363
Jamaica	3,767	750	4,517	3,867	769	4,636
Japan	421	8	429	452	10	462

	2007			2008		
Nationality	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Jordan	7,494	1,116	8,610	7,835	1,177	9,012
Kazakhstan	12,731	5,265	17,996	7,853	2,519	10,372
Kenya	5,616	1,201	6,817	5,948	1,200	7,148
Korea (North)	12	1	13	15	2	17
Kosovo	13	6	19	33	30	63
Kuwait	25,207	8,681	33,888	28,587	10,269	38,856
Kyrgyzstan	758	104	862	484	63	547
Laos	66	6	72	87	8	95
Latvia	120	5	125	57	3	60
Lebanon	8,140	939	9,079	7,155	742	7,897
Lesotho	3	—	3	3	—	3
Liberia	235	22	257	254	18	272
Libya	4,304	1,245	5,549	5,317	1,392	6,709
Lithuania	31	6	36	10	2	12
Luxembourg	1	—	1	—	—	—
Macau	5	—	5	3	—	3
Macedonia	2,027	154	2,181	1,976	223	2,199
Madagascar	308	26	334	312	22	334
Malawi	1,158	227	1,385	976	169	1,145
Malaysia	83	—	83	89	1	90
Maldives	2	—	2	5	—	5
Mali	385	25	410	410	25	435
Malta	2	—	2	1	—	1
Marshall Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mauritania	173	16	189	158	7	165
Mauritius	635	105	740	585	71	656
Mexico	574	34	608	166	39	205
Micronesia	—	—	—	1	—	1
Moldova	960	108	1,068	767	103	870
Mongolia	1,074	121	1,195	677	134	811
Montenegro	5	—	5	252	139	391
Montserrat	—	—	—	1	—	1
Morocco	6,047	1,009	7,056	5,241	883	6,124
Mozambique	389	26	415	411	53	464
Namibia	10	—	10	5	—	5
Nauru	1	—	1	—	—	—
Nepal	2,439	248	2,687	1,734	160	1,894
Netherlands	5	—	5	2	—	2
New Zealand	95	—	95	81	—	81
Nicaragua	6	1	7	6	—	6
Niger	139	13	152	91	14	105
Nigeria	45,399	19,269	64,668	45,578	18,957	64,535
None	7	—	7	1	—	1
Norway	—	—	—	67	16	83
Oman	3,733	1,179	4,912	5,146	1,697	6,843
Other	761	139	900	1,713	367	2,080
Pakistan	28,194	13,344	41,538	26,507	11,510	38 017
Palestinian Authority	520	100	620	92	9	101
Panama	111	3	114	101	4	105
Papua New Guinea	3	—	3	—	—	
Paraguay	2	1	3	2	—	2
Peru	3,706	286	3,992	2,822	272	3,094
Philippines	12,872	1,408	14,280	12,530	1,356	13,886
Poland	214	60	274	64	3	67
Portugal	4	—	4	1	—	1
Qatar	6,778	4,093	10,871	8,067	4,733	12,800
Refugee (Art 1 1951 Convention)	542	147	689	440	129	569
Romania	369	18	387	353	20	373
Russia	104,478	11,960	116,438	97,915	20,461	118,376
Rwanda	445	50	495	493	25	518
Sao Tome And Principe	54	13	67	16	4	20
Saudi Arabia	27,477	9,501	36,978	33,606	12,597	46,203
Senegal	1,894	114	2,008	1,815	168	1,983

	2007			2008		
Nationality	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*	*Over 18*	*Under 18*	*Total*
Serbia	232	26	258	621	55	676
Seychelles	3	2	6	—	—	—
Sierra Leone	1,641	388	2,029	1,100	305	1,405
Singapore	27	—	27	26	—	26
Slovakia	120	6	126	71	6	77
Slovenia	74	9	83	45	3	48
Solomon Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
Somalia	253	27	280	187	23	210
South Africa	199	20	219	293	53	346
South Korea	120	6	126	98	10	108
Soviet Union	3	—	3	3	—	3
Spain	7	3	10	4	—	4
Sri Lanka	8,023	3,038	11,061	7,757	2,607	10 364
St. Kitts and Nevis	1	—	1	1	—	1
St Lucia	11	—	11	8	2	10
St Vincent	4	—	4	1	1	2
Stateless (Art 1 1951 Convention)	595	148	743	479	126	605
Sudan	4,571	1,258	5,829	3,618	838	4,456
Surinam	157	45	202	109	7	116
Swaziland	3	—	3	3	1	4
Sweden	5	—	5	2	—	2
Switzerland	5	1	6	—	1	1
Syria	3,184	419	3,603	3,308	503	3,811
Taiwan	22,705	2,875	25,580	19,431	2,579	22,010
Tajikistan	257	39	296	263	21	284
Tanzania	3,416	501	3,917	3,144	365	3,509
Thailand	24,209	2,262	26,471	24,777	3,108	27 885
Togo	264	17	281	252	26	278
Tonga	3	—	3	—	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago	125	4	129	137	16	153
Tunisia	2,864	370	3,234	2,414	593	3,007
Turkey	46,105	7,777	53,682	55,375	8,961	64,336
Turkmenistan	443	52	495	492	139	631
Uganda	3,888	498	4,386	3,782	577	4,359
Ukraine	21,034	3,851	24,885	19,143	4,975	24,118
United Arab Emirates	12,288	5,434	17,722	15,008	6,804	21,812
United Nations	57	—	57	30	—	30
United States	1 032	31	1,063	936	29	965
Unspecified Nationality	2,823	858	3,681	1,813	431	2,244
Uruguay	7	1	8	3	—	3
Uzbekistan	1,021	61	1,082	1,210	199	1,409
Vanuatu	—	—	—	1	—	1
Vatican	12	—	12	5	—	5
Venezuela	55	2	57	50	4	54
Vietnam	3,721	277	3,998	3,983	410	4,393
Western Samoa	2	—	2	2	—	2
Yemen	1,745	538	2,283	1,477	434	1,911
Yugoslavia	10,092	1,598	11,690	10,259	1,977	12,236
Zambia	2,327	517	2,844	1,971	445	2,416
Zimbabwe	2,830	1,105	3,935	2,449	838	3,287
Grand total	916,752	184,882	1,101,634	879,067	192,958	1,072,025

Extradition: USA

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse was of *(a)* legal aid and *(b)* other costs incurred in respect of Article 20 of the Extradition Treaty in each case in which a British national has been extradited to the United States since 1 January 2004. [275211]

Mr. Hanson: In the given period, the Legal Services Commission advises that legal aid totalling £70,830.70 was paid in 10 cases which involved the extradition of UK citizens from England and Wales to the USA. It is not otherwise possible to provide a complete or accurate breakdown of costs incurred in individual extradition cases by each Government Department and its supporting agencies. In each agency involved, the cases were dealt with as part of its overall and larger case load.

The figure does not include legal aid which may have been granted in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the United Nations on its new humanitarian centre at Calais; and if he will make a statement. [278548]

Mr. Woolas: The Government maintain regular contact with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in the area of immigration.

UNHCR intends to deploy a staff member to the Calais area to support local authorities and partners in the provision of accurate support and information for migrants in the area. The Government are not aware of a new humanitarian centre being provided by the UNHCR, and would remain firmly opposed to any kind of permanent accommodation centre that would attract illegal immigrants and the traffickers who prey on them.

Immigration: Gurkhas

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former soldiers of Gurkha regiments are resident in the UK. [273853]

Mr. Woolas: Since the rules this Government introduced in 2004 came into force, over 6,000 former Gurkhas and family members have been granted settlement in the UK.

It is not possible to disaggregate the number of Gurkhas who are legally resident here in other categories of the immigration rules from other Nepalese citizens without the examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Sexual Offences: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of crimes related to sexual offences in Coventry in the last 12 months. [276690]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to tackling sexual violence across the country. In 2007, it published a three year national Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse. Since the publication of the action plan, the Government have taken a number of measures including introducing specially trained officers and specialist rape prosecutors; supporting police forces to develop rape action plans; and funding a pilot of a dedicated rape investigation team. In April 2009, the Government announced a package of measures, having worked closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), to help ensure that victims of sexual violence receive a consistent, high quality service in every force. These measures include a new Rape Performance Group, led by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to monitor police and CPS performance on rape and undertake continuous assessments of performance; new National Policing Improvement Agency 'best practice' guidance for the police and Crown Prosecution Service on investigating and prosecuting rape; an expert NPIA/ACPO/CPS support team to ensure consistent implementation of this new guidance; and helping every police force to ensure that all victims are seen by a specially trained officer within an hour of reporting.

UK Border Agency: Data Protection

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports the UK Border Agency has lost in each of the last five years. [278348]

Mr. Woolas: Information relating to the number of passports that have been lost by the UK Border Agency in each of the past five years is not centrally recorded and therefore is not readily available.

UK Border Agency: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for the relocation of UK Border Agency offices to Liverpool; and if he will make a statement. [278996]

Mr. Woolas: There are no substantive plans at present to relocate departments or significant workstreams to Liverpool in a way that would substantially increase staff numbers at that location.

UK Border Agency: Pay

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency and its predecessor bodies paid in staff bonuses over *(a)* £10,000, *(b)* £50,000 and *(c)* £100,000 in 2008. [278707]

Mr. Woolas: For the financial year 2008-09:

	Total employees
UK Border Agency staff paid a bonus of over £10,000	14
UK Border Agency staff paid a bonus of over £50,000	0
UK Border Agency staff paid a bonus of over £100,000	0

JUSTICE

Community Orders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many arrest warrants issued in respect of breaches of the terms of community sentences are outstanding; and if he will make a statement; [278620]

(2) how many warrants in respect of breach of community orders have been outstanding for *(a)* less than 12 months, *(b)* between 12 months and two years, *(c)* between two and three years, *(d)* between three and four years, *(e)* between four and five years and *(f)* five years or more. [278663]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information centrally on the number of warrants in respect of breach of community orders that have been outstanding for the periods asked for. Data are available on the number of warrants outstanding and the number of arrest warrants that were issued as at 30 April 2009 for England and Wales. These are set out in the table. These data come from an internal management system that was developed and introduced in October 2005, which is subject to minimal levels of quality assurance and is based on the data currently available.

Community penalty breach warrants—as at 30 April 2009

England and Wales	*Number*
Outstanding warrants for breaches of community orders	7,982
Number of arrest warrants issued	7,545

Crimes of Violence: Reoffenders

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of serious violent offences and who served sentences of under two years duration re-offended in each year since 2000. [278883]

Maria Eagle: The table shows the one year adult reoffending rates for offenders in England and Wales released from custody in the first quarter (1 January to 31 March) of the years 2000 to 2007, who served a custodial sentence of less than two years for a serious violent offence. The table shows the proportion of offenders who committed at least one further offence and the frequency of offences per 100 offenders.

One year reoffending rates, offenders leaving custody, 2000-07 who served a custodial sentence of less than two years for a serious violent offence

	Number of offenders	*Number of reoffenders*	*Actual reoffending rate*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
Q1 2000	346	107	30.9	100.6
Q1 2002	391	115	29.4	94.6
Q1 2003	343	93	27.1	98.5
Q1 2004	349	75	21.5	78.8
Q1 2005	307	70	22.8	66.8
Q1 2006	283	65	23.0	73.1
Q1 2007	241	63	26.1	72.6

Note:
Data for 2001 are unavailable due to problems with archived data

Further information on the one year rates of reoffending can be found in

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm.

Appendix G contains a list of serious violent offences.

The figures for reoffences include offences of all types. An offender whose original offence was serious violence and who reoffended, may not have committed any more serious violent offences.

While the small cohort size makes these measures highly volatile, there has been a decline in both the actual reoffending rate and the number of reoffences committed since 2000.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were charged with each category of violent offence whilst under supervision by the Probation Service in each of the last five years. [278619]

Mr. Straw: The available information is shown in the table. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) holds statistical information on the number of offenders charged with serious further violent offences while under probation supervision. However, this does not include all types of violent offence.

The table contains data on the number of offenders, managed by the National Probation Service for England and Wales, who were charged with certain violent offences, where there was a requirement initially to notify NOMS, in line with Serious Further Offence Probation Circulars 06/2006 and 41/2006.

Data is only held for 2006-07 onwards. Data for 2008-09 will be published in the annual Offender Management Caseload Statistics (OMCS), which is scheduled for publication on 31 July. This will also include those offenders who were notified to NOMS, in line with the Serious Further Offence Probation Circular 22/2008 which took effect on 1 December 2008. OMCS provide the offence breakdown by conviction rather than charge, where notified cases have proceeded to a review. I will write to the hon. Member with an updated table, once OMCS are published, showing the number of offenders who were charged with serious violent offences for 2008-09.

Serious further offence breakdown of all cases notified to NOMS PPU between 1 April 2006 and 30 September 2008

	England and Wales notifications		
Serious violent offence description	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008*
Aggravated burglary (section 10 of the Theft Act 1968)	—	26	75
Aggravated theft	75	59	—
Aggravated vehicle-taking involving an accident which caused the death of any person (Section 12A of the Theft Act 1968)	—	—	1
Arson (section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971)	90	93	42
Attempt to cause explosion, or making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property (section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883)	—	—	1
Attempt to commit murder or a conspiracy to commit murder	47	62	21
Attempting to choke, suffocate or strangle in order to commit or assist in committing an indictable offence (section 21 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861)	—	1	—

Serious further offence breakdown of all cases notified to NOMS PPU between 1 April 2006 and 30 September 2008

	England and Wales notifications		
Serious violent offence description	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008*
Burglary with intent to: (a) inflict grievous bodily harm on a person or (b) do unlawful damage to a building or anything in it. (section 9 of the Theft Act 1968)	—	11	17
Carrying a firearm with criminal intent (section 18 of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	2	1
Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult, also called 'familial homicide' (Section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004)	—	—	—
Causing death by careless driving when under influence of drink or drugs (section 3A of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	1	2	2
Causing death by dangerous driving (section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	14	8	6
Destroying or damaging property other than an offence of arson (section 1 (2) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971)	—	1	—
False imprisonment	56	60	35
Kidnapping	65	76	39
Manslaughter	7	9	4
Murder	129	107	64
Other explosives offences	2	—	—
Other offences against the person	22	15	1
Other serious violent offence	92	65	5
Possession of firearm at time of committing or being arrested for offence specified in Schedule 1 to that Act (section 17(2) of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	5	10
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life (section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	4	20
Robbery or assault with intent to rob (section 8 of the Theft Act 1968)	1	11	18
Use of firearm to resist arrest (section 17(1) of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	—	—
Serious firearms offences (SFO)	55	96	—
Soliciting murder (section 4 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)	—	—	1
Wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)	454	567	352
Total	1,110	1,280	715

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278819]

Maria Eagle: The MOJ has only been collecting performance data for the proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt of a supplier invoice since November 2008. Performance since that date is sent out in the table.

	Percentage paid within 10 day target	*Number of invoices paid within 10 days*
November 2008	64	63,307
December 2008	59	58,743
January 2009	55	57,679
February 2009	67	67,693
March 2009	66	82,116
April 2009	82	65,422
May 2009	92	61,462

The Ministry of Justice is fully committed to achieving compliance with the Prime Minister's target of paying suppliers within 10 days where possible, and is a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code.

The Ministry recognised that its performance against the target needed to improve, and it implemented a prompt payment improvement programme to address the issue. The results for April and May indicate that this programme is beginning to have an effect.

Legal Aid

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many solicitor's firms in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* Devon and *(d)* East Devon provided legal aid services in each of the last 10 years. [278410]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, figures for the numbers of solicitor offices in England and Wales providing legal aid services in each year since 2002-03 are available and are shown in the following table. Prior to the introduction of the civil unified contract in April 2007 and criminal unified contract in July 2008, legal aid providers delivering services in more than one office would hold separate contracts for each of those offices. In addition, where providers have decided not to continue providing civil legal aid services, they may nevertheless still have an account or accounts with the Legal Services Commission while they continue to deal with their remaining clients.

Over the period there has been a downward trend in the overall number of solicitor offices dealing with legal aid. This is because there has been a continuing process of offices that do only small amounts of legal aid work leaving the market or merging with other offices, so that the work is done in larger volumes at fewer offices. In addition, the Legal Services Commission has over time sought to terminate dormant accounts where no work was being done.

	Civil	*Crime*
2002-03	5,372	2,967
2003-04	5,245	2,832
2004-05	5,099	2,695
2005-06	4,106	2,630
2006-07	3,708	2,534
2007-08	3,627	2,230

Legal Aid: South West

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons legal aid expenditure in the South West has decreased since 2004-05. [278346]

Bridget Prentice: The decrease in expenditure in the South West is primarily due to reduced expenditure on criminal matters.

The largest share of this was in the Crown court and here the reported decline is at least in part, only apparent. This is because with the development of contracting for very high cost cases, expenditure on these is assigned to the office from which the contract is managed, rather than the court in which the case is heard. Most high cost cases heard in the Crown court in the South West are not managed in that region.

There has also been a decline in representation costs in the magistrates courts. This is due to the reintroduction of the means test for legal aid.

Probation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders under Probation Service supervision were categorised as Tier 4 in each of the last five financial years. [278618]

Mr. Straw: The total number of offenders in England and Wales who were categorised as Tier 4 as at 31 March in each of the last three years was as follows:

	Number
2006	28,407
2007	37,555
2008	40,117

Information on tier prior to 1 April 2005 was not recorded.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many years experience a probation officer is required to have before being assigned to a violent offender. [278664]

Mr. Straw: All probation officers undergo a two year training course before qualifying which equips them to deal with a wide range of offenders including those who commit violent offences. The local probation area holds responsibility for the allocation of a probation officer or probation service officer to an individual offender. The most serious offenders should be allocated to the most experienced and competent probation officers available.

TRANSPORT

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will require with immediate effect the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency to deny access to data on motorists and vehicles to any company which is in breach of the British Parking Association code. [278811]

Paul Clark: Private car-parking companies who request vehicle keeper data, via electronic means must be a member of the British Parking Association's (BPA) Approved Operator Scheme (AOS). Ongoing membership requires compliance with BPA's code of practice.

A consultation exercise has recently concluded on extending this requirement to also include private car parking companies who request data via the paper based process. The responses are currently being analysed. The effect of the proposed changes would be that all private car-parking companies will have to comply with the BPA's code if they wish to obtain keeper information from Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reason holders of non-UK driving licences who have taken and failed a UK driving test are permitted to drive in the UK on a non-UK licence for up to 12 months following their arrival in the UK. [279049]

Paul Clark: Holders of non-UK driving licences may continue to drive in the UK for up to 12 months to build experience of traffic conditions and laws in Britain.

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many holders of non-UK driving licences have taken the UK driving test in each of the last 10 years; and how many have failed the test. [279050]

Paul Clark: Provisional entitlement for the relevant category of vehicle is required before a UK driving test can be taken. Holders of non-UK licences must obtain a UK licence in order to obtain the necessary provisional entitlement.

EU member state licence holders who hold a valid EU licence who wish to obtain further licence categories may obtain a UK counterpart document, which gives the provisional entitlement that allows the holder to take a test in that category.

The Driving Standards Agency does not hold details of previous licences held by driving test candidates.

London Gateway Port

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the London Gateway Port to commence operation. [279099]

Paul Clark: The construction and opening for operation of London Gateway port is a matter for the port developer.

Motor Vehicles: Foreigners

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many foreign-registered cars entered the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [278361]

Paul Clark: Information relating to the number of foreign registered cars entering the UK is not recorded.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanism his Department uses to establish whether a foreign-registered car has been driven in the UK for a period of longer than six months. [278412]

Paul Clark: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) records details of foreign registered vehicles as they are circulating in the UK from a range of sources. These include its own automatic number plate recognition cameras, reports from members of the public, the police, local authorities and DVLA's wheel-clamping contractor. This information allows, on second and subsequent sightings, the length of time a vehicle is likely to have been circulating in the UK to be calculated, supporting wheel-clamping and impounding of non-compliant vehicles as appropriate.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many formerly foreign-registered cars were registered in the UK in each of the last three years. [278413]

Paul Clark: The following figures provide the number of vehicles previously registered abroad that have been registered in the UK in each of the last three financial years.

	Number
2008-09	75,101
2007-08	95,038
2006-07	93,233

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of foreign-registered cars using UK roads which did not re-register within six months in the latest period for which information is available. [278414]

Paul Clark: The information requested is not held.

Road Traffic

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what methodology is used by his Department and its contractors to monitor levels of congestion on rural, urban and inter-urban roads. [278234]

Mr. Khan: The methodologies for the Department's inter-urban and urban congestion PSA indicators can be found on the DfT website at the following web addresses:

Inter-urban

www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221546/226956/coll_congestiononthestrategicroa/cs r07revisedbaseline.pdf

Urban

www.dft.gov.uk/about/howthedftworks/psa/spendingreview2004psatargets2

While strategic A-roads in rural areas are included in the inter-urban indicator, there is no separate indicator for rural roads.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the effect of the frequency of the re-siting of fixed speed cameras on road safety. [278233]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not assessed the effect of the frequency of the re-siting of fixed speed cameras on road safety. Any decision to re-site a fixed speed camera is entirely a matter for individual road safety partnerships and the practice is not monitored by the Department. DFT circular 01/2007, "Use of Speed and Red-light Cameras for Traffic Enforcement: Guidance on Deployment, Visibility and Signing" encourages road safety partnerships to, at least annually, review all their existing camera sites and other collision hot spots. A copy of the guidance is in the Libraries of the House and is also available on the Department's website.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Fisheries: Manpower

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time British sea fishermen have been operating in UK waters in each year since 1997. [278886]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Latest published information from Table 2.6 of UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2007 showing the number of fishermen operating on UK registered vessels is shown in the following table.

Number of fishermen on UK register vessels

	Regular	*Part-time*	*Total*
1997	14,832	3,772	18,604
1998	14,436	3,453	17,889
1999	13,864	3,032	16,896
2000	12,399	3,250	15,649
2001	12,145	2,813	14,958
2002	11,442	2,763	14,205
2003	10,204	2,918	13,122
2004	11,023	2,430	13,453
2005	10,492	2,339	12,831
2006	10,358	2,576	12,934
2007	10,033	2,696	12,729

We are not able to identify the number of fishermen operating in UK waters.

Fisheries: Quotas

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what share of the sea fishing quota for *(a)* plaice, *(b)* cod and *(c)* halibut in the Irish Sea is held by fishermen using vessels of under 10 metres. [278892]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2009, the 10 metre and under fleet received an initial quota share prior to adjustments of 4.6 per cent. (30.2 tonnes) for plaice and 1.6 per cent.

(10.6 tonnes) for cod caught in the Irish sea. Irish sea halibut is not subject to a quota. The Marine and Fisheries Agency significantly increases the fishing opportunities of stocks such as Irish sea plaice which are targeted by inshore fishermen.

Fishing Vessels

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fishing vessels of *(a)* 10 metres and under and *(b)* over 10 metres are licensed in the UK. [278884]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Latest published information from Table 2.2 of UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2007 shows that at 31 December 2007 there were 6,670 licensed UK registered fishing vessels. Of these, 1,515 were over 10 metres in length and 5,155 were 10 metres or under in length.

Rats

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on rat prevalence and the frequency of refuse collection from multiple occupation properties in the last three years. [278763]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department has not commissioned nor evaluated any research on rat prevalence and the frequency of refuse collection from multiple occupation properties in the last three years. However, the latest report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04 is available on DEFRA's website. Key findings are that the occurrences of rats inside and outside properties in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001. The next report covering the period up to 2006 should be available this year, although at present there is no set date for publication. There is no breakdown in the English House Condition Survey to identify rat populations in multiple occupation properties.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on trends in resistance to poisons in the rat population. [278765]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I am not aware that DEFRA holds any information on trends in resistance to poisons in the rat population that is not in the public domain.

The former Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food funded an assessment of resistance to rodenticides in 1998. This was published in: "Kerins, G.M.; Dennis, N.; Atterby, H.; Gill, J.E. and MacNicoll A.D. (2001) Distribution of resistance to anti-coagulant rodenticides in the Norway rat (Rattus norvegicus Berk) in England 1995-98". In: "Advances in Vertebrate Pest Management Volume II (Eds. H-J Pelz, D.P. Cowan and C.J. Feare) pages 149-159, Filander Verlag, Furth".

The Health and Safety Executive is aware from literature that rats may be becoming increasingly resistant to anti-coagulant rodenticides. Although it is aware of the research mentioned above, it is not aware of any new studies and has not itself commissioned any recent work of this nature.

WALES

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of invoices his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278832]

Mr. Hain: The percentage of invoices paid by my Department within 10 days, for the last 12 months is:

	Percentage
2008	
June	72
July	89
August	94
September	92
October	85
November	90
December	98
2009	
January	91
February	98
March	99
April	100
May	97

Changes to payment of invoices were announced by the Prime Minister on 8 October 2008; invoices paid prior to this date had a 30-day payment target for which my Department achieved a 99 per cent. payment score.

HEALTH

Children in Care: Kent

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the former children's home Kendall House. [278970]

Phil Hope: The Department no longer holds any information on Kendall House. Files including those relating to the social services inspectorates' inspections of Kendall house were transferred to the then Department for Education and Skills, (now the Department for Children Schools and Families) when responsibility for children's social services was transferred to that Department in 2003.

Drugs

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements there are upon pharmaceutical companies to report information on medicines for human use to his Department. [278061]

Gillian Merron: All marketing authorisation holders of medicines for human use in the European Union are obliged by law to provide information on the safety of their products under Regulation 726/2004 and Directive 2001/83/EC (as amended). Detailed guidance is provided in Volume 9A of the Rules Governing Medicinal Products in the European Union and is available at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/pharmaceuticals/eudralex/vol9_en.htm

Obligations relating to reporting in clinical trials are given in Clinical Trials Directive 2001/20/EC, Articles 16 and 17. Some obligations are associated with specific deadlines for provision of information to competent authorities. Those related to safety of medicines include the submission of serious, suspected adverse drug reactions; the submission of Periodic Safety Update reports; and with respect to clinical trials, the reporting of suspected unexpected serious adverse reactions.

Health Services: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to improve services for *(a)* cancer, *(b)* accident and emergency, *(c)* paediatric and *(d)* geriatric patients in Coventry. [278602]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to commission services in line with local needs and the priorities set out in "The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2009-10". A copy of this document is already available in the Library.

The target that no patient would spend more than four hours in accident and emergency (A&E) departments from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge was set in the NHS Plan in 2000. The target became an operational standard in 2005.

In 2003, a 98 per cent. minimum operating figure was set for delivery of the access standard to allow for the minority of patients who clinically need more than four hours in A&E.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to improve health services for victims of sexual crimes in Coventry. [278603]

Ann Keen: The Department is working with the Home Office to deliver the Response to Sexual Violence Programme. The aim is to set up more sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) in line with the Home Secretary's commitment to increasing provision to one per police force area. SARC's are intended to provide a holistic service for the victims of sexual assaults, including meeting the victim's clinical needs as well as a forensic examination, counselling and the opportunity to give evidence anonymously.

The Department has also announced £1.4 million for the National Support Team on Response to Sexual Violence, which will work in local areas to bring together experts from the health service, forensics services, the Crown Prosecution Service and the police to advise on meeting local needs.

Within the West Midlands area the police and local partners are working together to agree a strategic approach for providing sexual violence services.

Immediate Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many immediate care beds there are in England; and in which units such beds are located. [277039]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The phrase 'hospital services delivering 24 hours, immediate patient care' was used in the United Kingdom governments' notification to the European Commission of the intention to take up the option of a derogation under Article 17(5) of the European Working Time Directive (EWTD). The phrase was recommended by the national EWTD Reference Group as the most appropriate descriptor to identify those services most likely to be challenged in implementing rotas for a 48 hour week for doctors in training from 1 August. There is no central collection of data, nor central definition of immediate care beds.

Intensive Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are used to allocate funding for intensive care beds. [278491]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is for local healthcare providers, working with healthcare commissioners to determine the allocation of funding for intensive care in accordance with their local population characteristics, anticipated case mix and level of elective and emergency activity.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to hospitals to assist them in determining the optimum number of intensive care beds. [278492]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Local healthcare providers, working with their commissioners and supported by critical care networks determine the optimum number of critical care beds required to meet the needs of their local populations taking account of anticipated case mix and level of activity. They are supported in this by the long-term strategy document published in May 2000 "Comprehensive Critical Care." A copy has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Public Consultation

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest assessment is of the effectiveness of local involvement networks; and if he will make a statement. [278997]

Ann Keen: The legal duty to ensure local involvement network (LINk) activities are carried on rests with local authorities. It is their responsibility to make sure that the contract with the host organisation provides that the support given to the LINk ensures the LINk is as effective as possible.

Each year LINks must produce an annual report setting out what they have achieved, the activities they have undertaken, the money they have spent on their activities and the impact they have had. Reports have to be completed by 30 June and must be made publicly available. Copies have to be sent to the Department and these will be analysed to see what, if any, additional national support would be appropriate.

Patients: Death

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients representing what proportion of admissions died in *(a)* intensive care units, *(b)* theatre and *(c)* other wards in each NHS hospital in each of the last 10 years; and how many and what proportion of people attending accident and emergency departments died while in the department in each accident and emergency department in each such year. [277196]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the operations of provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan which are beyond their military remit; and if he will make a statement. [278642]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The mission of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) is to extend the ability of the government of Afghanistan to deliver its services and this is conducted in a comprehensive manner by military and civilian personnel. The remit of a PRT is not military in nature, but rather uses military resources to facilitate its activities.

For example, the UK's PRT spent around £60 million in Helmand in 2008 on stabilisation and development and now has over 80 civilian staff in the province. This assistance has built nearly 2,000 wells benefiting over 400,000 people, contributed to 160 district infrastructure projects reaching over 300,000 families and provided paid work for nearly 19,000 people. The PRT has also supported projects on dispute resolution, which saw considerable progress in 2008: the Helmand Provincial Court is operating more effectively; convictions have risen 400per cent. since June; and legal representation, including a legal aid office, has been introduced.

China: Censorship

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on steps taken by the Chinese government to close access to websites commenting on the 20th anniversary of the events in Tiananmen Square; and if he will make a statement. [279104]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware that access to a large number of foreign and domestic websites in China was blocked in the run up to the 4 June anniversary. Encouraging greater freedom of expression in China, including for domestic and foreign media, remains a priority for us. We urge the Chinese Government to lift restrictions which undermine the fundamental principles of international human rights standards on freedom of expression. We raised the subject of internet access at the last UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in January 2009.

Czech Republic: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Czech government on Czech ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [278071]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Minister for Europe have regular contact with their EU counterparts in other member states. These discussions include a wide range of bilateral, European and international issues.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to page 14 of the National Audit Office's report on the financial management of his Department, HC 289, what arrangements his Department has made with HM Treasury to carry forward unspent funds into future years through the system of end year flexibility; and whether there have been any changes to these arrangements in the last two financial years. [278646]

David Miliband: The take-up of end year flexibility (EYF) carry over of unspent funds into future years is subject to normal Treasury scrutiny on the basis of need, and in the light of the wider fiscal position. In 2008-09 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office took up £17.3 million EYF. There have been no formal changes to the EYF arrangements in the last two financial years.

European Union: Civil Servants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff there were at each grade at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU in each year since 1997. [277096]

Chris Bryant: At present staff at each grade at the UK Permanent Representation to the EU are:

	Number
In the senior management	
SMS4	1
SMS3	1
SMS2	1
SMS1	12
In the delegated grades	
D7	4
D6	37
C5	2
C4	26
B3	6
A2	5
Staff employed locally	
LEI	6
LEII	5
LEIII	29
LEIV	5

To collate a year-by-year breakdown would incur disproportionate cost. The general staffing levels at the UK Permanent Representation have remained reasonably consistent in recent years.

Iraq: Iran

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to Iraqi authorities on the security of the residents of Ashraf City. [278967]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our ambassador in Baghdad called on the Iraqi Human Rights Minister, Wijdan Salim, on 13 April 2009 this year to raise the issue of Camp Ashraf and make her aware of the level of interest in this issue in the UK. We took the opportunity to remind her of the Government of Iraq's earlier assurances towards the proper treatment of the residents of Ashraf. In addition, officials at our embassy in Baghdad have undertaken consular visits to Camp Ashraf to clarify whether any residents qualified for UK consular assistance.

The Iraqi Government have made assurances that no Ashraf residents will be forcibly transferred to a country where they have reason to fear persecution, or where substantial grounds exist to believe they would be tortured.

Middle East

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Israeli, *(b)* Egyptian and *(c)* Palestinian counterparts on the commitment of the Government together with the US, Norway, Germany, France, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark to implement measures to prevent arms smuggling from Iran into the Gaza Strip. [278470]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The matter of counter weapons-smuggling to armed groups in Gaza is part of our regular discourse on Middle East Peace Process issues with the EU, US and regional partners, including Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority. Stopping the flow of weapons along with ensuring humanitarian and reconstruction access to Gaza are vital elements to securing a lasting ceasefire.

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on his undertaking together with Italy, Germany and France, to provide naval resources to stop the flow of weapons from Iran into the Gaza Strip. [278471]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Taking action to prevent the smuggling of arms into Gaza plays a key role in consolidating the ceasefire.

We will continue to work closely with the EU, US and regional partners to establish how best our expertise, including naval resources, can be used. Officials are attending a meeting on prevention of arms smuggling to Gaza in Ottawa on 10-11 June 2009. This is a follow up meeting to the ones held in Copenhagen and London where a programme of action was agreed by the nine participating countries (Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, the UK, and the US).

Poland: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Polish government on Poland's ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [276972]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary and the Minister for Europe have regular contact with their EU counterparts in other member states. These discussions include a wide range of bilateral, European and international issues.

Republic of Ireland: Treaty of Lisbon

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Irish Government on Ireland's ratification of the treaty of Lisbon; and if he will make a statement. [276973]

Chris Bryant: The Irish Government updated partners in Brussels on their views on preparing the June European Council discussion during the course of the week beginning 25 May 2009. My right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint), the then Minister for Europe, wrote on 5 June 2009 to the chairs of European Scrutiny Committee and the Lords EU Select Committee updating them on these discussions. Copies of this letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Tibet

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 522W, on Tibet, what report was made to him by those officials who visited the Tibet Autonomous Region in May 2009. [278980]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Harlow (Bill Rammell), the then Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on 8 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 694W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards creating a plan for the digital migration of radio. [279096]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have worked closely with a wide range of industry stakeholders since the publication of the Interim Digital Britain Report. We will set out the findings, alongside our proposals for the future of radio, in the Digital Britain Final Report, which will be published shortly.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions the Digital Radio Delivery Group has met. [279097]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Digital Radio Delivery Group has met four times.

Football Foundation: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Football Association and *(b)* the Premier League on the funding of the Football Foundation; and what financial commitments to the Foundation have been agreed for each year to 2012. [278552]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* I have regular discussions with the Football Association and the Premier League about football matters, including issues relating to the Football Foundation.

The current agreed annual financial commitment to the Football Foundation by each of the three funding partners is currently £15 million and runs to the end of the financial year 2009-10.

Heroes Return 2 Scheme

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many veterans have received funding under the Heroes Return 2 scheme. [278307]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* Through the Big Lottery Fund's Heroes Return 2 programme 1,184 veterans have received funding. This funding has offered WW2 veterans from the UK, Channel Islands and Republic of Ireland the opportunity to visit the places where they saw active service or to take part in an official commemoration in the UK.

UK Film Council: Pay

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* employees and *(b)* board members of the UK Film Council receive a salary higher than the Ministerial salary of a Secretary of State; and what the salary is in each case. [278078]

Barbara Follett: The information is as follows:

(a) Four UK Film Council employees receive a salary higher than a Secretary of State. In accordance with the UK Film Council's annual report and accounts disclosure of senior staff salaries, not including the chief executive officer, is given in salary ranges.

Employee	*Position*	*Salary*
John Woodward	Chief Executive Officer	£170,171
Sally Caplan	Head of Premiere Fund	£165,000-£170,000
Tanya Seghatchian	Head of Development Fund	£165,000-£170,000
Will Evans	Head of Business Affairs	£155,000-£160,000

(b) Board Members of the UK Film Council do not receive remuneration.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278755]

Ann McKechin: Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, the Scotland Office is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in our annual resource accounts.

The Scotland Office has made no such notifications.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what financial consultants were used by the Boundary Committee to model the possible costs of unitary local government in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Suffolk; and at what cost. [279559]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Boundary Committee engaged three independent financial consultants to consider the affordability of its draft proposals for Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk. They are Chris Wheeler CPFA, Tony Hall CPFA and Ken Bell CPFA. The committee also engaged Dr. Eric Fisher CPFA to undertake a peer review of their affordability assessments. All were contracted through CIPFA Placements.

The cost to date is £279,949. This figure accounts for work undertaken in relation to Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk from March 2008 to 10 June 2009.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012

Pete Wishart: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been raised from all dedicated London 2012 Olympic Lottery games *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each quarter of 2008-09. [278093]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

As at 31 March 2009, the total contributed to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund (OLDF) from designated Olympic Lottery games is £390.4 million.

The amount contributed to the OLDF from designated Olympic Lottery Games in each quarter of financial year 2008-09 is:

	£ million
Quarter 1	31.2
Quarter 2	43.6
Quarter 3	27.3
Quarter 4	24

The National Lottery Commission publishes quarterly reports detailing the level of funds that have been transferred to the OLDF. These are available on its website:

www.natlotcomm.gov.uk/client/content.ASP?ContentId=234

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting London 2012 Olympics events at the ExCel centre in London. [278319]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

Olympics Games 2012: Safety

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what progress has been made by the Government Office for London in its corporate plan aim to develop and implement resilience plans to ensure the safety of the London 2012 Olympics. [278689]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

As part of the wider Home Office led 2012 Olympics safety and security programme, the Government Office for London is currently assessing where further work may be required to ensure that we have the necessary capabilities (i.e. plans, staff, facilities etc.) in London to respond to Olympic specific resilience risks to the safety and security of the Games. Once this analysis is complete, the Government Office for London will take forward a programme of work to build any new capabilities that are required, or enhance existing capabilities, to ensure that relevant risks are effectively managed.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278721]

Paul Goggins: Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, the Northern Ireland Office is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in our annual resource accounts.

The Northern Ireland Office has reported on personal data breaches in the 2007-08 annual resource account and this can be found at:

http://www.nio.gov.uk

We will be publishing information on personal data security breaches reported to the Information Commissioner for the 2008-09 reporting year before Parliament rises in July. The information is currently being compiled and is to be audited and verified before it is laid before Parliament.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bus Services: Greater Manchester

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of pensioners resident in Denton and Reddish constituency who have received a free bus pass and free eye test. [277713]

Angela Eagle: As part of the implementation of the new England-wide concession, which guarantees older and eligible disabled people free off peak travel on local buses anywhere in England, all concessionary passes are now issued as smartcards to a new standard design. Local authorities are responsible for issuing passes, and so central Government does not maintain records of how many individual authorities have issued, though we do know that around eight million passes have now been issued in total across England.

The last information held by the Department for Transport was that as of 31 March 2009, Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, which administers the concession for residents of Denton and Reddish, had issued around 460,000 of the new smartcard concessionary passes. This includes applications from disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

The Department of Health has been unable to provide the number of NHS-funded sight tests for those aged 60 and over in the Denton and Reddish constituency. Information is provided by Primary Care Trust (PCT) and by Strategic Health Authority (SHA) but is not available by parliamentary constituency.

The number of NHS sight tests for those aged over 60, in 2007-08 is available in Table B3 of Annex C of the General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: Year Ending 31 March 2008 report. This report, published on 20 November 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/gosactivity0708p2

From 1 April 1999, eligibility for an NHS sight test was extended to everyone aged 60 or over. Patients may qualify for an NHS sight test on more than one criterion. However, they would only be recorded against one criterion on the form. Patients are more likely to be recorded according to their clinical need rather than their age. For example, a patient aged over 60 with glaucoma is likely to be recorded in the glaucoma category only. The count by eligibility is therefore approximate. Patients may also have had more than one sight test in the specified time period.

2007-08 is the latest full year for which information is available. Information for 2008-09 is expected to be published by the NHS Information Centre in August 2009.

Cold Weather Payments: Scotland

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received the extra cold weather payment of £60 awarded for the winter of 2008-09 in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Glasgow and *(c)* Glasgow South West constituency. [270800]

Angela Eagle: The £60 payment was a Christmas bonus. More than 15 million customers have been paid this additional Christmas bonus following the Chancellor's pre-Budget announcement on 24 November 2008.

Information about the number of Christmas bonus recipients in specific areas is not available, because the data are not collected in a form which would allow us to identify the geographical location of customers.

For the available estimates on the number of eligible pensioners in each parliamentary constituency, I refer the hon. member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 99-100W.

For cold weather payments, the information requested is not available. Estimates of the number of people who received a cold weather payment during the winter of 2008-09 are not available geographically other than by weather station area. Some weather stations cover areas which straddle the border between Scotland and England.

Jobcentre Plus: Digital Technology

Alan Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the principles of digital inclusion are applied to Jobcentre Plus. [268967]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 April 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the acting chief executive to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the principles of digital inclusion are applied to Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus supports the principles set out in the Government's Digital Inclusion Action Plan and the work of the Cabinet Committee set up last year to ensure that everyone, especially disadvantaged people, benefits from the use of digital technologies in delivering public services.

I recognise how important this is for Jobcentre Plus and for our customers. Many of the people we help are disadvantaged and some are amongst the most vulnerable members of society. We are tackling that challenge by extending access to our online services and by helping people to acquire the confidence and ability to use those online services.

Job vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus can be accessed online, through digital television and through Jobpoint Kiosks located in all of our local Jobcentres. We are now starting to replace and upgrade that network of Jobpoints. We are also exploring making some online services accessible by mobile telephone which, like digital television, are more extensively owned and used by our customers than home computers.

Customers can already access information which enables them to answer some basic enquiries about their benefit entitlement through the online Benefit Adviser service on Directgov. Later this year customers will be able to make their claim for benefit online and that service will be extended in 2010 to enable customers to track progress of their claim and notify changes of circumstances through a secure personal account. We are also planning to make these services available to intermediaries and welfare rights organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureaux so that customers can access them there or be helped by those organisations to use them.

It is equally important that we provide help for those customers who need to become confident about using digital services. Through the work-focused interviews carried out by our Personal Advisers, we identify people who could benefit from that help and refer or signpost them to a wide range of information technology training offered through DWP's Employment Programmes, Learndirect or UK Online centres.

I also recognise the importance of ensuring that our services are accessible to disabled people or people with other barriers to using digital technology. Our online services are compliant with the Government's Web Accessibility Standards, compatible with the main assistive software packages including JAWS, Dragon, Supernova and Zoomtext. All our services are also accessible by telephone or through our local Jobcentres for those people who need it or who find it difficult to access online services. Later this year, we will be able to offer a new "Text Box" service which will improve the service we provide to speech and hearing impaired people over the telephone.

I recognise that improving digital inclusion is essential to ensuring that all our customers can benefit from the improvements in service that digital technologies can provide to help them move off welfare and into work.

Motor Vehicles: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions she has had with representatives of motor industry employees on private pensions for *(a)* retiring and *(b)* retired motor industry employees. [278019]

Angela Eagle: Ministers and officials have had discussions with representatives of motor industry workers and others about the level of Pension Protection Fund compensation payable to individuals who started to draw pensions from their pension scheme before they reached the scheme's normal pension age.

Pension Credit

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce the number of pensioners not claiming pension credit for which they are eligible. [275443]

Angela Eagle: Maximising the take-up of benefits is crucial to tacking pensioner poverty. Since its introduction in October 2003 the number of pensioners in relative low income has reduced by around 500,000.

We want to increase take-up of pension credit and council tax benefit and are working hard to encourage those entitled but not yet claiming to do so.

In order to increase take-up of pension credit and council tax benefit we introduced further simplifications to the claims process so that pensioners can now claim state pension, pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit in one easy free phone call, without the need to sign and return any claim forms.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service will continue to promote take-up of benefits by those entitled. It will continue to press forward with data matching to identify eligible non-recipients, home visits for vulnerable customers and ever closer working with partner organisations. We are rolling out a targeted take-up campaign across 20 regions where our insight suggests there are a high number of eligible non-recipients of pension credit. The approach involves local service teams working closely with national and local partners, both in planning and delivering the campaign to ensure we are using all available knowledge to deliver a highly effective take-up campaign.

The new campaign, launched in Sheffield and North Kent in January 2009, is designed to engage with the local pensioner population, using channels of communication and organisations that are likely to be familiar, for example WRVS, Mecca bingo, voluntary organisations. In some areas, for example the North East, the campaign will be extended to the wider region.

In addition, we are taking powers in the Welfare Reform Bill to allow us to pilot new approaches that make better use of the information Government already have available to it for this purpose.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in each local authority area are in receipt of pension credit; and what the average payment in each such area was in 2008. [276266]

Angela Eagle: The information requested will be placed in the Library.

Pensioners

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Plymouth are estimated to have received a *(a)* free bus pass, *(b)* free television licence and *(c)* free eye test. [276358]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) As part of the implementation of the new England-wide concession, which guarantees older and eligible disabled people free off peak travel on local buses anywhere in England, all concessionary passes are now issued as smartcards to a new standard design. Local authorities are responsible for issuing passes, and so central Government does not maintain records of how many individual authorities have issued, though we do know that around 8 million passes have now been issued in total across England.

The latest information held by the Department for Transport was that, as of 7 April 2008, Plymouth city council had submitted approximately 36,419 applications for the new smartcard concessionary passes to their pass supplier. This includes applications from disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

(b) TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, can provide breakdown only by postcode. However, according to the records of the Department for Work and Pensions the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in the Plymouth Devonport and Plymouth Sutton constituencies in 2007-08 was 13,950. Figures for 2008-09 are still being compiled.

(c) The number of NHS-funded sight tests for those aged 60 and over in the Plymouth area during 2007-08 was 29,696.

2007-08 is the latest full year for which information is available. Information for 2008-09 is expected to be published by the NHS Information Centre in August 2009.

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many UK pensioners formerly resident overseas have returned to live in the UK in each of the last five years. [277744]

Angela Eagle: The following table shows the numbers of pensioners now living in Great Britain receiving the UK state pension who were previously in receipt of their pension overseas:

	Number
2004	7,920
2005	8,960
2006	8,820
2007	8,390
2008	9,270

Notes:

1. Great Britain is defined via the country code recorded on the Pension Service Computer System. Excludes claimants returning from Northern Ireland.
2. British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies are classified as overseas in this analysis.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, November 2003-November 2008

Remploy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of those formerly employed in Remploy factories which have been closed in the last three years have subsequently found alternative employment with Government assistance. [278035]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* Because of data protection regulations, Remploy are not able to share personal details of those employees leaving the factories with the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not keep records on Remploy ex-employees separately. It is therefore not possible to provide information about the proportion of people formerly employed at Remploy factories who have found work with Government assistance.

Remploy has provided the information as follows on the 1,637 people who left the factories under the modernisation of the company:

> Remploy last contacted these former employees in March 2009, but only received responses from 635 (38 per cent.).
>
> Of the 635 replies, 178 people (28 per cent.) have confirmed they are in work.

232 former factory employees remain employed by Remploy. Of these, 108 are working at a host company on a permanent contract, 80 are on a job placement and 44 are still looking for work.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the basic state pension payable to eligible *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) 2010, (ii) 2015, (iii) 2020, (iv) 2025 and (v) 2030; and if she will make a statement. [272661]

Angela Eagle: The information is in the following table.

Basic state pension expenditure, Great Britain

	2010-11	*2015-16*	*2020-21*	*2025-26*	*2030-31*
£ billion, cash					
Men	24	34	47	63	87
Women	32	39	50	69	99
£ billion, 2008-09 prices					
Men	23	28	34	40	47
Women	30	32	36	43	54

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £ billion.
2. Forecasts of basic state pension expenditure in 2010-11 are based on the Budget 2009 forecasts. Basic state pension expenditure forecasts from 2015-16 onwards are based on the latest published long-term projections which were published Budget 2008.
3. The real terms figures are calculated from the Budget 2008 GDP deflator.

Source:
Budget 2009 forecasts and Budget 2008 long-term projections.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much expenditure was incurred by his Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273911]

(2) what car journeys he undertook in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009; [273910]

(3) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials of his Department accompanied him to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009; [273909]

(4) what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) he and (ii) officials in his Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273912]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Secretary of State for International Development was not accompanied by officials to the Cabinet meeting on 16 April. He was joined at the venue by his two special advisers who were visiting the Department's joint headquarters in Glasgow on departmental business on the day in question. The Department for International Development (DFID) incurred a total expenditure of £543.65 relating to the Cabinet Office meeting, which was solely for travel. Two car journeys were undertaken.

For further information in relation to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for how long his Department has followed the Carbon Trust's Energy Efficiency programme. [269283]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID has been working closely with the Carbon Trust on our energy efficiency programme since 2006, when they carried out energy assessment reports on our UK buildings.

Developing Countries: Trade

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the likely effect on levels of employment in each country in *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Latin America and *(c)* Asia of the completion of the World Trade Organisation Doha Round. [279136]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not calculated the impact of the completed Doha Development Agenda (DDA) on employment levels. However, one of the most significant impacts of a Doha deal for these continents will be the expected increase in income. A World Bank study gives estimates of annual increases in income as a result of a Doha deal as follows:

$400 million for Sub-Saharan Africa;

$7.9 billion for Latin America and the Caribbean;

$8.1 billion for East and South Asia.

DFID is working to ensure that a final DDA deal delivers on its development mandate.

TREASURY

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what reports he has received from the Financial Services Authority on the results of its stress testing of British banks; and if he will make a statement; [278297]

(2) if he will direct the Financial Services Authority to publish the results of its stress testing of UK banks; and if he will make a statement. [278569]

Ian Pearson: The FSA made a statement on stress tests on 28 May 2009. This statement is available online at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/Library/Communication/PR/2009/068.shtml

Departmental Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department has spent on bottled water in each of the last two years; [278146]

(2) how much his Department has spent on water coolers in each of the last two years. [278147]

Kitty Ussher: Since June 2008, meetings at the Treasury's 1 Horse Guards Road building have been supplied with in-house bottled filtered water, rather than bottled water sourced from outside suppliers. It is not possible to separately identify costs of bottled water prior to June 2008 as this forms part of the cost of meeting refreshments that includes teas and coffees, bottled water and biscuits.

Water coolers were used in the Treasury's Norwich building at a cost of £2,250 in 2007-08. The cost for 2008-09 forms part of the Treasury's resource account which is due for publication in the summer following audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The use of water coolers at the Norwich office is being discontinued following their replacement with plumbed in machines.

Departmental Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many days in the last year *(a)* the Union Flag and *(b)* no flag has been raised above his Department's main building. [278121]

Kitty Ussher: The Union Flag flies permanently above 1 Horse Guards Road.

Insurance: Motor Vehicles

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of regulating the practice of pressing for early settlement in the motor insurance industry. [279005]

Ian Pearson: The matter raised in this question is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority, whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. The FSA will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Isle of Man

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requests for assistance he has received from the Isle of Man Government relating to compensation of account holders with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man). [278764]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

Loans: Interest Rates

Kate Hoey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of using his power under section 2(4)(b) of the Inner Urban Areas Act 1978 to alter the interest rates for loans obtained from local authorities under section 2 of that Act. [278241]

Mr. Ian Austin: I have been asked to reply.

No such assessment has been made.

Private Finance Initiative: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the effects on contracts for waste disposal services of Government policy on the private finance initiative. [279310]

Kitty Ussher: Treasury Ministers have discussions with a variety of individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Government policy, as announced on 3 March, is to ensure vital infrastructure projects proceed as planned, supporting jobs and the economy and preparing for future recovery. This includes PFI waste projects.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1183W, on HM Revenue and Customs: closures, in which constituency each property planned to be vacated in 2009-10 is located. [277265]

Mr. Timms: The following table lists those offices where HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) plans to withdraw back office operations in 2009-10 as part of HMRC's regional review programme, the constituency in which each office is located and whether or not it provides inquiry centre services. Where an office housing an inquiry centre closes, the inquiry centre services will be retained at or near the current location so face to face services to HMRC's customers will not be affected.

Town	*Building*	*Inquiry centre*	*Constituency*
Andover	London Street	Yes	North West Hampshire
Ashton-under-Lyne	Oakglade House	Yes	Ashton-under-Lyne
Belfast	Olivetree House	No	Belfast West
Brierley Hill	Capstan House	No	Dudley South
Bristol	Woodlands Court	No	Northavon
Bromley	Northside House	Yes	Bromley and Chislehurst
Burton upon Trent	Crown House	Yes	Burton
Bury	Minden House	Yes	Bury North
Cheadle	Boundary House	No	Cheadle
Chester	Eden House	No	City of Chester
Chesterfield	Dents Chambers	No	Chesterfield
Coatbridge	Muiryhall Street	Yes	Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill
Coleraine	Mill House	No	East Londonderry
Cowes	The Watch House	No	Isle of Wight
Crewe	Crewe House	Yes	Crewe and Nantwich
Derby	St. James House	No	Derby North
Dumbarton	Meadowbank St	Yes	West Dunbartonshire

Town	*Building*	*Inquiry centre*	*Constituency*
Edinburgh	Clarendon House	No	Edinburgh North and Leith
Edinburgh	Saughton House	No	Edinburgh South West
Enniskillen	Custom House	No	Fermanagh and South Tyrone
Finchley	Gateway House	Yes	Finchley and Golders Green
Glasgow	Blythswood House	No	Glasgow Central
Greenock	Dalrymple Street	Yes	Inverclyde
Hamilton	Barrack Street	Yes	Lanark and Hamilton East
Harlow	Terminus House	No	Harlow
Hastings	Ashdown House	Yes	Hastings and Rye
Haywards Heath	Oaklands	Yes	Mid Sussex
Horsham	Exchange House	No	Horsham
Hove	Martello House	No	Hove
Huntingdon	Chequers Court	Yes	Huntingdon
Inverness	Longman House	No	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey
Kendal	Kentmere House	No	Westmorland and Lonsdale
Leigh	Boardman House	Yes	Leigh
Liverpool	Norwich House	No	Liverpool, Riverside
Liverpool	Regian House	Yes	Liverpool, Riverside
London	Lyndhurst House, Mill Hill	Yes	Hendon
Lytham St. Anne's	Petros House	Yes	Fylde
Maidstone	Concorde House	No	Maidstone and The Weald
Middlesbrough	Fountain Court	Yes	Middlesbrough
Motherwell	Civic Square	Yes	Motherwell and Wishaw
Newbury	Elizabeth House	Yes	Newbury
Norwich	Rosebery Court	No	Norwich North
Nottingham	Bowman House	No	Nottingham South
Nottingham	Huntingdon Court	No	Nottingham South
Oldham	Phoenix House	Yes	Oldham West and Royton
Paisley	Gilmour House	Yes	Paisley and Renfrewshire South
Plymouth	Custom House	No	Plymouth, Sutton
Salford	Anchorage 2	No	Salford
Skipton	Cavendish House	Yes	Skipton and Ripon
Southampton	Queen's Keep	No	Southampton, Itchen
Stockport	Wellesley House	No	Denton and Reddish
Stockton	Dunedin House	No	Stockton South
Sutton	Helena House	Yes	Sutton and Cheam
Swansea	Custom House	No	Swansea East
Swindon	Spring Gardens	No	South Swindon
Taunton	Riverside Chambers	No	Taunton
Truro	Pydar House	No	Truro and St. Austell
Tunbridge Wells	Union House	No	Tunbridge Wells
Walthamstow	Church Hill	Yes	Walthamstow
Wembley	Valiant House	Yes	Brent South
Whitehaven	Blencathra House	Yes	Copeland
Widnes	Kingsway House	Yes	Halton
Worthing	Teville Gate House	Yes	Worthing West

Tax Avoidance

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of clause 37 of Schedule 17 to the Finance Bill will have on HM Revenue and Customs' ability to prevent tax avoidance. [278998]

Mr. Timms: Clause 37 and Schedule 17 introduce a reporting requirement for business that replaces the current Treasury Consent rules. This will provide HM Revenue and Customs with early notice of high value cross-border transactions that change the capital structure of multinational groups. This information will be used in considering whether these transactions may have been put in place to avoid tax, and complements other existing anti-avoidance measures. The information provided will also inform policy making, enabling legislation to be introduced where necessary to close down avoidance schemes.

Taxation: Investment Income

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on Exchequer revenue of raising the dividend ordinary tax rate to 20 per cent. and the dividend upper tax rate to 40 per cent. [275817]

Mr. Timms: Raising the dividend ordinary and upper rates to 20 per cent. and 40 per cent. respectively is likely to involve significant behavioural effects. The estimated yield incorporating these behaviour costs can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Rebates

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targets have been set in respect of the time taken by HM Revenue and Customs to process applications for tax refunds; and what the average time taken to process such applications was in each year since 2005. [278807]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) seek to strike a balance between issuing repayments as quickly as possible for the benefit of customers and ensuring that the Exchequer is adequately protected against fraud. Therefore some tax repayment claims are subject to security checks, which may delay repayments from being made.

Refunds made from online self-assessment (income tax and capital gains tax) returns are normally made within seven days. For paper returns, HMRC identify returns on receipt marked 'repayment' and process these as priority. Sampling of income tax self-assessment repayments from October 2008 to April 2009 indicates that 90 per cent. of repayments are consistently made within 30 days.

Inheritance tax and national insurance contribution repayments are processed in line with and meet the HMRC's departmental objective 2, i.e. 80 per cent. of cases to be cleared within 15 working days and 95 per cent. to be cleared within 40 working days.

For PAYE, 99.3 per cent. of repayment claims arising from tax on investment income deducted at source in 2008-09 were processed within 15 working days of receipt against a target of 97 per cent.

Refunds processed from online self-assessment corporation tax returns are normally made within seven days.

Full data for previous years is not available.

VAT: Sunscreens

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue accrued to the Exchequer from value added tax on sun protection products in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [278797]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allocate 0300 telephone prefixes to *(a)* the Tax Credit Helpline and *(b)* the Child Benefit Helpline; and if he will estimate the likely level of savings to (i) his Department and (ii) service users of introducing such a change. [278375]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs operates 0845 numbers for the majority of its customers facing helplines and has no immediate plans to allocate 0300 telephone prefixes to the tax credit helpline or the child benefit helpline.

HMRC keeps its numbering strategy under regular review. However, there is no single numbering solution that meets all of HMRC's customers' needs, as call charges to customers are dependent on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use for the call and the location from which they call.

The differing tariff arrangements for customers mean that HMRC is unable to estimate the overall likely savings of any such change to service users. Some customers will pay more, others will pay less and for others there will be no change.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Air Pollution: Airports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps are being taken to include emissions of greenhouse gases other than carbon dioxide from aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [278649]

Joan Ruddock: During the negotiation of European directive 2008/101/EC, which includes aviation in the EU emissions trading system, UK-led pressure secured a commitment from the European Commission to come forward with a proposal to regulate nitrogen oxide emissions from aviation. A proposal has not yet been tabled, but the UK continues to press the Commission to produce one.

Carbon Emissions

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure the co-ordination of information from Government departments and agencies in respect of energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [269520]

Joan Ruddock: Since 2007, the Government have run high-profile marketing campaigns to engage citizens on climate change issues. These serve to address the confusion and powerlessness which can impede people from taking action, and encourage genuine and sustained behaviour change to help reduce carbon emissions and meet the UK emissions targets.

These campaigns have been run under the umbrella of ACT ON CO_2, a Government-led and multi-partnered behaviour change brand, which aims to provide clarity and consistency across different communications on climate change and, by extension, energy efficiency. The ACT ON CO_2 website aims to signpost, interact, coordinate and engage consumers on climate change, providing a clear, consistent, authoritative and credible voice. The website allows other Government departments to build and add further climate change information as and when necessary.

The ACT ON CO_2 website, which includes a carbon footprint calculator as the key engagement tool, supports and amplifies all campaign activity. In running the website, DECC aims to maximise opportunities to 'cross-sell' behaviour messages between all climate change communications from Government departments, NGOs and other partners. DECC, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Transport, Communities and Local Government, the Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust all provide information and advice or run campaigns, or both, under ACT ON CO_2. An ACT ON CO_2 toolkit has been developed to help facilitate a consistent message and approach.

Additionally DECC is in regular contact with other relevant Government departments and delivery bodies such as the Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust to share communication plans and identify potential opportunities to work together to the benefit of consumers. DECC explicitly instructs its media buying agencies to avoid clashes in scheduling of advertising.

DECC also shares analyses and findings on energy savings of various energy saving technologies with the Energy Saving Trust to ensure a consistent approach.

The Government also provide a range of information and support to help businesses improve their energy efficiency, including through the Carbon Trust and Regional Development Agencies. We are taking steps to make that information easier to access through Business Link website at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

as part of the cross-Government Solutions for Business programme.

Fuel Poverty: Elderly

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1481W, on fuel poverty, what percentage of fuel poor homes in *(a)* the North West Region and *(b)* the UK are the primary residence of at least one person over 65 years. [278050]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent year for which estimates of fuel poverty are available is 2006. Around 36 per cent. of fuel poor households in the North West Region contained at least one person aged 65 or over. In England, 45 per cent. of fuel poor households contained at least one person aged 65 or over. Comparable figures are not available for the UK.

Fuel Poverty: North West

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1481W, on fuel poverty, how many fuel poor households there are in each local authority area in the North West. [278051]

Joan Ruddock: The most recent year for which estimates of fuel poverty are available at sub-regional level is 2003. This sub-regional data for fuel poverty levels in 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset, available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

Fuel poverty figures for local authorities in the North West are shown as follows for 2003:

	Number
Allerdale	2,700
Barrow in Furness	2,200
Blackburn with Darwen	3,900
Blackpool	4,400
Bolton	7,100
Burnley	2,700
Bury	4,700
Carlisle	2,900
Chester	3,100
Chorley	2,600
Congleton	2,200
Copeland	2,100
Crewe and Nantwich	3,000
Eden	1,500
Ellesmere Port and Neston	2,100
Fylde	2,000
Halton	3,200
Hyndburn	2,400
Knowsley	4,200
Lancaster	3,700
Liverpool	14,200
Macclesfield	3,700
Manchester	11,900
Oldham	5,700
Pendle	2,600
Preston	3,600
Ribble Valley	1,400
Rochdale	5,500
Rossendale	1,800
Salford	6,400
Sefton	8,000
South Lakeland	2,800
South Ribble	2,500
St. Helens	4,900
Stockport	7,300
Tameside	5,800
Trafford	5,500
Vale Royal	3,100
Warrington	4,800
West Lancashire	2,800
Wigan	8,300
Wirral	9,200
Wyre	2,900

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Transport

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of UK *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* other greenhouse gas emissions arising from (i) road travel, (ii) rail travel, (iii) domestic energy use, (iv) agriculture, (v) shipping and (vi) hovercraft in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [278447]

Joan Ruddock: The 2007 estimates of UK greenhouse gas emissions were published on 3 February 2009. These statistics represent the most up-to-date information available, and can be accessed from the following link at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/index.htm

The proportion of UK greenhouse gas emissions from (i) road transport, (ii) railways, (iii) residential use, (iv) agriculture and (v) domestic shipping in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table. Please note that statistics for emissions from hovercrafts are included within the domestic shipping sector.

These percentages are based on emissions calculated on an 'End User' basis i.e. the emissions are reallocated from the production and distribution of energy to the users of that energy.

Percentage contribution of specified sectors towards total emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, 1997 to 2007 by end-user

Gas/sector	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
(a) Carbon dioxide											
(i) Road transport	24.6	24.4	24.9	24.4	24.0	25.4	24.7	24.6	24.9	24.6	25.2
(ii) Railways	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
(iii) Agriculture	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
(iv) Residential	25.6	26.6	26.2	26.7	27.3	27.2	27.3	27.5	26.9	26.9	26.2
(v) Domestic shipping	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.0

Percentage contribution of specified sectors towards total emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, 1997 to 2007 by end-user

Gas/sector	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
(b) All greenhouse gases											
(i) Road transport	19.6	19.6	20.6	20.4	20.4	21.5	21.2	21.2	21.5	21.3	21.8
(ii) Railways	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
(iii) Agriculture	8.8	8.7	9.0	8.6	8.2	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	7.9
(iv) Residential	21.2	22.2	22.5	[illegible]	24.0	23.9	24.1	24.4	24.0	24.0	23.4
(v) Domestic shipping	0.6	0.6	0.6	[illegible]	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.9
(c) Other greenhouse gases (non-CO$_2$)											
(i) Road transport	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.4
(ii) Railways	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
(iii) Agriculture	34.2	35.1	40.6	40.9	41.2	43.2	45.2	46.3	46.8	46.9	46.8
(iv) Residential	5.9	6.4	6.9	6.9	7.5	7.6	7.2	7.4	7.6	7.6	7.3
(v) Domestic shipping	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Renewable Energy: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the benefits of increased expenditure on research and development in environmentally friendly technologies for *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Tees Valley. [249824]

Joan Ruddock: The Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills (BIS) oversees R and D projects under its collaborative R and D portfolio.

Strategic reviews of LINK, the predecessor scheme to collaborative R and D, indicate that the scheme generated research broadly comparable in terms of quality to research funded by the Research Councils. In addition to this, the LINK review concluded that there had been substantial commercial benefits that enabled more business-relevant long term research, providing a benefit cost ratio of up to 3.8 to 1 and increased profit between £250 million and £500 million.

A more recent review of the first three calls of this portfolio (formerly under DTI's Collaborative Research Programme) also concluded that the net present value of returns from successful projects is well above the investment cost. There is evidence of a high degree of 'additionality', which would not be expected if the projects were likely to produce very high private returns on average. Significant scope for 'positive spillovers' also exists. The most important factor influencing the extent of spillovers is the commercialisation of project outputs. A broad consortium was also found to enhance spillovers.

The Regional Development Agency (RDA) for the North East region, One NorthEast, has not done any direct work assessing the benefits of increased expenditure. It is the role of the RDAs to promote the economic growth of their region through the development and implementation of a regional economic strategy. Innovation as a driver of productivity is a key priority in these plans.

The North East regional economic strategy and action plan has placed significant focus on economic change through energy and environment technologies. This shared regional strategy is based on extensive stakeholder consultation and analysis. It is this knowledge of the region, its assets and industries that informs collaborations and interventions with organisations such as the Technology Strategy Board.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Class Sizes

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding the Government have allocated to reducing class sizes in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997; [279331]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to recruiting teachers in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279333]

Mr. Coaker: Local authorities are responsible for the distribution of funding (including funding provided through the dedicated schools grant (DSG)) to schools in their area. Each local authority in consultation with their Schools Forum can choose to include a factor in their funding formula to direct resources to schools with infant classes to enable them to meet the class size duty. The Department does not collect information on how much funding was allocated to recruiting teachers for Essex and Castle Point schools. In 2008-09 the final DSG amount for Essex local authority was £755 million. The 2009-10 final DSG amount for Essex is yet to be published.

GCSE

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many and what proportion of secondary schools *(a)* at least 30 per cent. and *(b)* at least 50 per cent. of pupils achieved five GCSEs at grade A* to B in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [277515]

Mr. Coaker: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

GCSE: History

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils who sat a GCSE in history at mainstream maintained schools gained a grade of A* to C in that subject in each year since 1997. [276844]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested can be found in the following table:

Number and proportion of pupils who sat GCSE history at mainstream maintained schools and who gained an A to C grade in that subject in each year since 1997*

	Number	*Percentage*
1997	98,528	52.8
1998	91,137	54.1
1999	95,133	56.3
2000	97,814	57.5
2001	100,260	57.5
2002	100,891	58.5
2003	103,715	59.9
2004	110,869	60.6
2005	112,615	62.3
2006	115,212	62.6
2007	114,692	63.7
2008	116,272	64.5

Note:
The 1997-04 data are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year. The 2005-08 data are based on pupils at the end of KS4.
Source:
Achievement and Attainment Tables

Overseas Students: Entry Clearances

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what effect the implementation of Tier 4 of the points-based system for immigration has had on applications from abroad to UK independent schools. [278676]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Home Office Data Systems records the number of applications made by child students applying under the points-based system, but it does not record the number of those studying at UK independent schools. This information could be obtained only by manually cross-checking a large number of individual case files, which could be completed only at disproportionate cost.

It is therefore not possible to generate a report to compare the number of applicants coming to study at UK independent schools, before or after the introduction of Tier 4. It should also be borne in mind that Tier 4 was introduced on 31 March, and its impact will not have settled down yet.

Schools: Internet

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Government have allocated to the development of internet or e-based learning in schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279332]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not keep records of data on funding allocations in the form requested.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effect of Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 on the maintenance of high hedges; and if he will make a statement. [278483]

Mr. Ian Austin: No formal assessment has yet been made of the effect of part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, which came into force on 1 June 2005. Informal feedback suggests that the legislation is helping to end the misery caused by overgrown hedges, and many disputes are being resolved voluntarily.

Commonhold and Leasehold Act 2002

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation his Department has undertaken with leaseholders on sections 152 and 153 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Act 2002 referring to statements of account in the last two years. [279435]

Mr. Ian Austin: The latest consultation exercise on section 152 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (statement of account) took place in July 2007. Consultation exercises were carried out prior to this in November 1998, August 2000, and June 2004.

These exercises have informed the amendments to the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 which are contained in schedule 12 to the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.

Consultation on section 153 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002 (Notice to accompany demands for service charges) last took place in August 2006. Prior to this consultation took place in October 2002 and June 2004. This provision came into force from 1 October 2007 and requires landlords to send a summary of tenants' rights and obligations relating to service charges with demands for service charges, to contain information prescribed in regulations.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average change in the level of Band D council tax was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* East Devon in each year since 1997. [278345]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Details of the changes in the level of Band D council tax in *(a)* England, *(b)* Devon and *(c)* East Devon in each year since 1997 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/counciltax/

Eco-towns: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 14 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 996-97W, on eco-towns, how much his Department plans to spend on stage 2 of the Financial Viability Study of the eco-towns programme; and if he will make a statement. [276533]

Mr. Ian Austin: Our external advisers will shortly be completing stage 2 of their work to support the assessment of the economic viability of the shortlisted eco-town locations. Given that this work has not been completed it would not be appropriate to provide a total cost at this stage.

Eco-towns: Publicity

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 108-10W, on eco-towns: expenditure, what his Department's expenditure on communications, marketing, public relations, design and media on eco-towns has been to date. [276964]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department will publish a breakdown of expenditure in relation to promoting the eco-towns public consultation on its website in conjunction with the publication of its next annual report.

Empty Property: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of properties in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point were vacant in each of the last five years. [279040]

Mr. Ian Austin: Vacant dwellings as a proportion of all residential dwellings in Castle Point and Essex in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

		Percentage
	Castle Point	*Essex*
1 November 2004	1.8	2.6
10 October 2005	2.0	2.8
9 October 2006	2.2	2.9
8 October 2007	2.4	2.8
6 October 2008	2.4	3.1

Data for Essex are the proportion of all dwellings in the individual billing authorities including Castle Point but excluding figures for Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock unitary authorities.

The data are as reported annually to Communities and Local Government on the CTB and CTB (Supplementary) forms that are completed by all billing authorities in England. The data relate to particular dates in the autumn of each year.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in implementing a service level agreement to ensure co-ordination between the recovery operations of different authorities during a flood; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement. [278294]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government offices in the regions have the responsibility of ensuring coherence and co-ordinating between recovery operations of different authorities during a flood. The 'Core Regional Resilience Capability' document, which formalises this role, was agreed in December 2008 and is now in force.

I am today placing a copy of this document in the Library.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance his Department issues on the continued marketing of a home with a home information pack which lacks *(a)* a local property search and *(b)* leasehold information after 28 days from the first day of marketing have elapsed; [277013]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to home information pack (HIP) providers on the provision of HIPs in *(a)* hard and *(b)* electronic copy. [277036]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Procedural Guidance on the Home Information Pack (No.2) Regulations 2007 provides guidance on these matters. The guidance is available on the CLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hipregulations

The explanatory note on section 156 of the Housing Act 2004 provides further guidance on the rules governing the provision of copies of the HIP. The explanatory notes on the 2004 Act are available at

www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/en/ukpgaen_20040034_en_1

Homes and Communities Agency

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 2 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1505-06W, on the Homes and Communities Agency, what the keywords or search terms monitored in the press by *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority were in each of the last three months. [271179]

Mr. Ian Austin: The keywords or search terms used by *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* the Tenants Services Authority in each of the last three months are shown in the following lists:

February 2009

Tenant services authority

Tenant Services Authority
TSA
Peter Marsh
Anthony Mayer
Housing Corporation
Homes and Communities Agency
2008 Housing and Regeneration Act
Margaret Beckett (in connection with housing)
CLG (in connection with housing)
Housing Associations + housing
Local authorities + housing

Homes and Communities agency

Homes and Communities Agency
HCA
English Partnerships
Milton Keynes Partnership
Academy for Sustainable Communities
ASC
HCA Academy
Homes and Communities Agency Academy

Brownfield Skills
Regeneration
March 2009
Tenant Services Authority
Tenant Services Authority
TSA
Peter Marsh
Anthony Mayer
Housing Corporation
Homes and Communities Agency
2008 Housing and Regeneration Act
Margaret Beckett (in connection with housing)
CLG (in connection with housing)
Homes and Communities Agency
Homes and Communities Agency
HCA
English Partnerships
Milton Keynes Partnership
Academy for Sustainable Communities
ASC
HCA Academy
Homes and Communities Agency Academy
Brownfield Skills
Regeneration
April 2009
Tenant Services Authority
Tenant Services Authority
TSA
Peter Marsh
Anthony Mayer
Homes and Communities Agency
CLG (in connection with housing)
Homes and Communities Agency
Homes and Communities Agency
HCA
English Partnerships
Milton Keynes Partnership
Academy for Sustainable Communities
ASC
HCA Academy
Homes and Communities Agency Academy
Brownfield Skills
Regeneration

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what transfers of underspend in one Government office region the Homes and Communities Agency has allocated to other Government office regions in respect of 2008-09. [270238]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was established from 1 December 2008. From that date until 31 March 2009, for those programmes which transferred to the HCA from Communities and Local Government, the HCA did not make any transfers of funding between regions. Nor were there any transfers of funding between regions in 2008-09 within the HCA's Property and Regeneration programme (this programme was delivered by the former English Partnerships in 2008-09 prior to 1 December 2008). There were however transfers of funding between regions during 2008-09 within the National Affordable Housing programme (this programme was delivered by the investment arm of the Housing Corporation in 2008-09 prior to 1 December 2008); this information is being collated and will be placed in the Library shortly.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many applications for planning permission for zero carbon homes were *(a)* requested and *(b)* granted in each of the last three years; [272221]

(2) how many planning applications for zero carbon homes have been made in each Government office region in each of the last 12 quarters; [272204]

(3) how many zero carbon homes have been *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each of the last three years. [272220]

Mr. Ian Austin: While information is collected centrally on housing planning permissions, starts and completions, this does not separately identify zero carbon homes. Furthermore there is no requirement for local planning authorities to keep records which separately identify zero carbon homes.

Housing: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 107W, on the design for manufacture programme, if he will place in the Library a copy of the initial study commissioned by the Homes and Communities Agency from the chartered surveyors in 2008. [276965]

Mr. Ian Austin: The purpose of the chartered surveyors' interim report was to aid HCA's understanding of the progress being made by developers in achieving the £60,000 target cost across the Design for Manufacture Competition.

The work comprised a sampling exercise that was not designed to be published because it would be likely to mislead the reader as to the performance of developers and building systems over time. Releasing this partial information could unfairly prejudice the commercial interests of developers and their supply chains.

The HCA plans to disseminate lessons learned from the competition once the final costs have been received, and based on a more comprehensive analysis of the completed outturn costs for all developers over the life of the competition.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of initial equity was purchased on average under the Social HomeBuy scheme in each of the last three years. [274849]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the average equity value of properties purchased under Social HomeBuy schemes in England since 2006-07, when the Social HomeBuy scheme started.

Social HomeBuy

	Average value of equity (£)
2006-07	132,630
2007-08	143,740
2008-09	127,480

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) Investment Management System (IMS)

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the average sale price of a property purchased under the *(a)* Social HomeBuy, *(b)* Right to Acquire and *(c)* Right to Buy scheme was in each year since 1997; [274865]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average monetary value of a domestic property in the social sector in each of the last five years. [274866]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the average price of a property purchased under Social HomeBuy, Right to Acquire and Right to Buy in England, for each year since 1997-98.

£

	Social HomeBuy	*Right to Acquire*	*Local authority Right to Buy*	*Registered social landlord Right to Buy*
1997-98	—	—	43,100	48,910
1998-99	—	—	45,490	51,110
1999-2000	—	—	48,950	53,050
2000-01	—	—	51,090	52,510
2001-02	—	47,190	53,520	50,780
2002-03	—	54,600	58,660	59,370
2003-04	—	65,540	66,840	58,630
2004-05	—	71,920	77,180	64,210
2005-06	—	83,230	83,470	72,160
2006-07	157,010	87,110	92,770	81,960
2007-08	155,860	108,100	103,470	89,750

Source:
PIB quarterly returns to CLG from local authorities, and Continuous Recording (CORE) returns from Registered Social Landlords to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA)

CLG does not collect information about average monetary values of social housing properties. The figures are for the average property price of social homes sold by social landlords under the Social HomeBuy, Right to Acquire and Right to Buy schemes in England.

These property price figures are based on the total property price, not the amount paid by the purchaser, who is entitled to a discount on the market value and may only be purchasing a share of the equity in the property.

The average property price is not shown for the Right to Acquire sales prior to 2001-02, due to a low number of sales in each year.

2008-09 figures are not yet available from CORE.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 447-48W on housing: low incomes, what the average percentage equity stake purchased by a buyer has been in each year in which each of the schemes has been operational. [275561]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the initial average percentage equity stake purchased by a buyer in each year since each scheme has been operational.

Product	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Percentage 2008-09*
Social HomeBuy	85	89	84
Open Market HomeBuy	78	85	68
MyChoice HomeBuy	n/a	n/a	65
Own Home	n/a	n/a	65
First Time Buyers Initiative	53	53	56

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency's Information Management System.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what amounts were transferred from one region to another with respect to the regional allocations for the National Affordable Housing Programme in each of the last three years. [275578]

Mr. Ian Austin: The information requested is being collated and will be placed in the House Library shortly.

Non-domestic Rates

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which were the groups described as representing ratepayers who expect significant rises in their rate bills and who are pressing for a five-year scheme on page 15 of the document NNDR Transitional Arrangements: Consultation, published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in August 2004; and if he will make a statement. [278453][1]

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1. *[Official Report, 16 July 2009, Vol. 496, c. 5MC.]*

Ms Rosie Winterton: A full list of those consulted is at Annex B to the Consultation document published in August 2004. A total of 66 responses were received. 41 responded in favour of a four-year transitional scheme. Nine respondents favoured a five-year transitional scheme. These are as follows:

British Chamber of Commerce;
Broadland District Council;
Drax Power Station;
(The) Energy Network;
GVA Grimley;
North Norfolk District Council;
Rating Surveyors Association;
South Holland District Council;
Wychavon District Council.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the administrative cost to *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* his Department of the (i) 2005 ratings list revaluation and (ii) 2010 ratings list revaluation. [278336]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Five-yearly revaluations are part of the normal operation of the rating system and form part of the everyday work of Communities and Local Government and local authorities. No assessment of the administration costs has been made for either Communities and Local Government or local authorities.

The estimated cost incurred by the Valuation Office Agency in undertaking the 2005 rating revaluation was £47.328 million and the estimated cost of undertaking the 2010 rating revaluation is £51.5 million.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether planning authorities are able to exempt educational and charitable organisations from planning fees in order to encourage sustainable development. [279051]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local planning authorities are unable to exempt educational and charitable organisations from planning fees. Planning permission is normally given in relation to the land to which it relates, and there is no guarantee that the successful applicant will be the one to implement the permission. Only in very exceptional instances is permission given that is personal and exclusive to an individual or corporate applicant, with a presumption that it will come to an end if the land ownership changes.

Accordingly, the planning system does not offer any special rate, as such, for applications it receives from charities or educational organisations, and there are no plans at present to change this. There are two exceptions to the above: certain works to improve access to buildings for disabled people are exempt from planning fees, and applications from non-profit-making sport or recreational organisations to carry out certain works and changes of use at sports grounds are liable to pay only at a concessionary rate.

Transition Towns Movement

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Transition Towns Movement; and whether her Department has undertaken research into transition towns. [278800]

Mr. Ian Austin: In March, my right hon. Friend the Member for Salford (Hazel Blears) met the Totnes branch of the Transition Network to hear about its work to support community engagement and empowerment, and foster 'green' lifestyle choices. Officials also visited Totnes, in May, where they met with various 'Transitioners' and heard about a variety of projects such as garden share schemes, plans for a new zero carbon development, and plans for the local Energy Service Company.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Afghan nationals have received military training in the UK in each year since 2001. [278947]

Bill Rammell: 51 Afghan nationals have received military training in the UK since 2001.

	Number
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	1
2005	5
2006	14
2007	24
2008	2
2009 to date	5

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who has operational responsibility for air combat missions flown by UK aircraft in Afghanistan; and where that person is based. [278964]

Mr. Quentin Davies: UK Fast Air fixed wing aircraft and Apache helicopters fly combat missions in support of ISAF operations in Afghanistan and are under the operational command of Commander Joint Operations. For fast air fixed wing aircraft, in theatre operational control is provided by the Deputy Coalition Forces Air Component Commander, based in Al Udeid. In theatre, operational control for Apache helicopters is provided by Commander ISAF.

Armed Conflict: Afghanistan

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many systems to investigate and provide compensation for civilian casualties of International Security Assistance Force operations are in place in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [278767]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Compensation claims brought against the Ministry of Defence as part of the International Security Assistance Force are considered on the basis of whether or not the Department has a legal liability to pay compensation. Where there is a proven legal liability compensation is paid.

The system in place for handling claims for compensation brought against the Ministry of Defence by Afghanistan civilians is through the Department's Area Claims Office based in Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province. Claims staff rotate through Musa Qaleh and Sangin and visit support bases at Kandahar and Kabul to handle claims which arise at these locations.

Other members of the International Security Assistance Force have their own systems in place to handle compensation claims.

Armed Forces: Data Protection

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to standardise the data gathered in records of discharge from the armed forces. [278835]

Bill Rammell: The Service Leavers Certificate has been standardised through the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration system (JPA). The JPA termination process is common to all three services and requires the same input from units, individuals and service manning authorities. However, the administering of discharges and the issue of associated discharge documentation differs between the three services, reflecting their individual structures and organisation.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel of each *(a)* rank, *(b)* regiment and *(c)* age cohort have been treated for (i) psychological disorders, (ii) post-traumatic stress disorder and (iii) physical injuries in each year since 1997; how many have been discharged as a consequence of (A) a psychological disorder and (B) a physical injury in each such year; which countries each had served in; and how long each had served before discharge. [277005]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since July 2007 the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) organisation has reported on the treatment figures for psychological disorders and post-traumatic stress disorders, psychiatric morbidity, of the UK armed forces. Quarterly reports for the whole of 2007 and the first two quarters of 2008 are available both in the Library of the House and on the DASA website at

www.dasa.mod.uk

Equivalent verified data prior to 2007 are not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Casualty statistics are published on a fortnightly basis on the MOD website at:

www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/Operations Factsheets/Operations InAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm_(Afghanistan)

www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/Operations Factsheets/OperationsIn IraqBritishCasualties.htm_(Iraq)

Further data broken down by rank, regiment and age cohort are not maintained centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. To obtain these details would require the examination of the individual medical records of each of the patients who has been classified as very seriously injured (VSI) or seriously injured (SI) for the period of the deployment. These records can only be viewed for non-clinical reasons with the express consent of the individual concerned, to protect patient confidentiality.

The three tables present annual numbers of medical discharges by service between 1997 and 2007, for those discharges where mental and behavioural disorders or musculoskeletal disorders and injuries were the principal cause leading to medical discharge. Figures for 2008 are currently being collated and are not yet available.

Naval Service[1] medical discharges, by principal cause groups mental and behavioural disorders and musculoskeletal disorders and injuries, number, 1997-2007

	ICD cause group	
Year of discharge	Mental disorders	Musculoskeletal disorders and injuries
1997	16	223
1998	31	286
1999	25	321
2000	42	333
2001	30	290
2002	38	276
2003	42	282
2004	29	211
2005	46	223
2006	42	206
2007	40	187

[1] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

Army medical discharges, by principal cause groups mental and behavioural disorders and musculoskeletal disorders and injuries, number, 1997-2007

	ICD cause group	
Year of discharge	Mental disorders	Musculoskeletal disorders and injuries
1997	86	790
1998	94	776
1999	58	864
2000	64	745
2001	104	722
2002	112	734
2003	90	696
2004	121	723
2005	119	676
2006	111	629
2007	114	596

RAF medical discharges, by principal cause groups mental and behavioural disorders and musculoskeletal disorders and injuries, number, 1997-2007

	ICD cause group	
Year of discharge	Mental disorders	Musculoskeletal disorders and injuries
1997	19	143
1998	18	91
1999	13	90
2000	21	113
2001	20	71
2002	13	79
2003	28	108
2004	65	71
2005	38	51
2006	78	87
2007	49	109

It is not possible to provide information on the location where the personnel who were medically discharged served as this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The average length of service for Naval Service personnel medically discharged where the principal cause leading to discharge was due to mental and behavioural disorders is 10.3 years. The table provides a breakdown by length of service and year of discharge, 1997-2007.

Length of service for Naval Service[1] personnel medically discharged with a principal cause of mental and behavioural disorders, by length of service, number[2], 1997-2007

	Year of discharge										
Length of service (years)	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	16	31	25	42	30	38	42	29	46	42	40
Less than 5	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	13	12	12	16	11	12	11	7
Greater than or equal to 5 but less than 10	[2]—	12	9	9	5	7	8	6	14	12	17
Greater than or equal to 10 but less than 15	[2]—	7	6	8	8	9	7	[2]—	6	[2]—	[2]—
Greater than or equal to 15 but less than 20	[2]—	5	[2]—	6	[2]—	5	6	5	9	9	6
Greater than or equal to 20 but less than 25	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Greater than or equal to 25 but less than 30	[2]—	—	—	[2]—	—	[2]—	[2]—	—	[2]—	[2]—	—
Greater than or equal to 30 but less than 35	[2]—	[2]—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
35 or more	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[2]—

[1] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

[2] Small numbers have been suppressed in line with Office for National Statistics Guidelines

[3] Entry date information not available

The average length of service for Naval Service personnel medically discharged where the principal cause leading to discharge was due to musculoskeletal disorders and injuries is 11.5 years. The table provides a breakdown by length of service and year of discharge, 1997-2007.

Length of service for Naval Service[1] personnel medically discharged with a principal cause of and musculoskeletal disorders and injuries, by length of service, number[2], 1997-2007

	Year of discharge										
Length of service (years).	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	223	286	321	333	290	276	202	211	223	206	187
Less than 5	23	36	62	74	63	50	32	35	45	68	58
Greater than or equal to 5 but less than 10	98	94	88	74	51	50	48	66	72	45	53
Greater than or equal to 10 but less than 15	39	72	66	86	80	100	60	52	44	25	23
Greater than or equal to 15 but less than 20	30	39	46	48	45	41	32	26	43	40	27
Greater than or equal to 20 but less than 25	21	36	52	40	40	26	22	21	14	15	20
Greater than or equal to 25 but less than 30	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	6	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	9	6
Greater than or equal to 30 but less than 35	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	5	[2]—	—	—	[2]—	—
35 or more	—	—	[2]—	—	[2]—	[2]—	—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	—
Not known[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[2]—	—

[1] Naval Service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines

[2] Small numbers have been suppressed in line with Office for National Statistics Guidelines

[3] Entry date information not available

The average length of service for Army personnel medically discharged where the principal cause leading to discharge was due to mental and behavioural disorders is 7.1 years. The table provides a breakdown by length of service and year of discharge, 1997-2007.

Length of service for Army personnel medically discharged with a principal cause of mental and behavioural disorders, by length of service, numbers[1], 1997-2007

	Year of discharge										
Length of service (years)	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	86	94	58	64	104	112	90	121	119	111	114
Less than 5	38	37	30	28	49	48	55	62	56	53	50

Length of service for Army personnel medically discharged with a principal cause of mental and behavioural disorders, by length of service, numbers[1], 1997-2007

	Year of discharge										
Length of service (years)	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Greater than or equal to 5 but less than 10	35	36	5	14	25	26	15	28	23	30	34
Greater than or equal to 10 but less than 15	6	13	11	[1]—	14	16	8	16	13	9	16
Greater than or equal to 15 but less than 20	5	[1]—	[1]—	10	5	12	7	[1]—	19	10	9
Greater than or equal to 20 but less than 25	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	8	[1]—	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Greater than or equal to 25 but less than 30	[1]—	—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Greater than or equal to 30 but less than 35	—	—	—	—	[1]—	—	—	[1]—	—	—	—
35 or more	—	—	—	—	[1]—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Small numbers have been suppressed in line with Office for National Statistics Guidelines

The average length of service for Army personnel medically discharged where the principal cause leading to discharge was due to musculoskeletal disorders and injuries is 3.4 years. The table provides a breakdown by length of service and year of discharge, 1997-2007.

Length of service for Army personnel medically discharged with a principal cause of and musculoskeletal disorders and injuries, by length of service, number[1], 1997-2007

	Year of discharge										
Length of service (years)	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	790	776	804	745	722	734	696	723	676	629	597
Less than 5	519	562	610	557	520	525	544	545	495	457	455
Greater than or equal to 5 but less than 10	163	116	97	90	74	79	63	81	86	78	64
Greater than or equal to 10 but less than 15	70	62	66	63	66	78	45	34	36	28	27
Greater than or equal to 15 but less than 20	19	27	20	19	29	[1]—	27	31	31	38	34
Greater than or equal to 20 but less than 25	[1]—	[1]—	11	[1]—	31	[1]—	17	27	23	24	15
Greater than or equal to 25 but less than 30	[1]—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Greater than or equal to 30 but less than 35	—	[1]—	—	—	—	[1]—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
35 or more	—	—	—	—	[1]—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	—	—
Not known[2]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Small numbers have been suppressed in line with Office for National Statistics Guidelines

[2] Entry date information not available

The average length of service for RAF personnel medically discharged with a principal cause of discharged where the principal cause leading to discharge was due to mental and behavioural disorders is nine years. The table provides a breakdown by length of service and year of discharge, 1997-2007.

Length of service for RAF personnel medically discharged with a principal cause of mental and behavioural disorders, by length of service, number[1], 1997-200

	Year of discharge										
Length of service (years)	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	19	18	13	21	20	13	28	65	38	78	49
Less than 5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	[1]—	[1]—	7	39	21	36	21
Greater than or equal to 5 but less than 10	8	8	[1]—	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	12	7	23	12
Greater than or equal to 10 but less than 15	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	9	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6	5
Greater than or equal to 15 but less than 20	[1]—	[1]—	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	7	[1]—	[1]—	5	7
Greater than or equal to 20 but less than 25	—	[1]—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	6	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Greater than or equal to 25 but less than 30	[1]—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—
Greater than or equal to 30 but less than 35	—	—	—	—	[1]—	—	[1]—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—
35 or more	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[1]—	—	—

[1] Small numbers have been suppressed in line with Office for National Statistics Guidelines

The average length of service for RAF personnel medically discharged where the principal cause leading to discharge was due to musculoskeletal disorders and injuries is 11.8 years. The table provides a breakdown by length of service and year of discharge, 1997-2007.

Length of service for RAF personnel medically discharged with a principal cause of and musculoskeletal disorders and injuries, by length of service, number[1], 1997-2007

	Year of discharge										
Length of service (years)	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All	143	91	90	115	71	79	108	71	51	87	109
Less than 5	36	17	18	38	18	20	17	27	11	17	15
Greater than or equal to 5 but less than 10	37	30	21	14	7	5	17	15	13	22	29
Greater than or equal to 10 but less than 15	24	12	27	25	11	17	24	5	6	7	12
Greater than or equal to 15 but less than 20	15	7	6	11	15	11	9	6	9	15	17
Greater than or equal to 20 but less than 25	18	14	9	14	12	18	23	5	6	8	21
Greater than or equal to 25 but less than 30	8	5	5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	8	7	[1]—	11	[1]—
Greater than or equal to 30 but less than 35	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
35 or more	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—	7	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Not known[2]	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	—	—	[1]—	[1]—	—	[1]—	—

[1] Small numbers have been suppressed in line with Office for National Statistics Guidelines

[2] Entry date information not available

Information detailing the countries served in by each armed forces personnel discharged with a psychological disorder or physical injury is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment he has made of levels of poverty amongst armed forces veterans who retired before 1975 and do not receive a full armed forces pension; [278915]

(2) what welfare provision his Department offers to people who retired from the armed forces before 1975. [278918]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Government do not collect statistics on the number of ex-service personnel living in poverty. Veterans facing difficulties in their civilian lives have access to the free veterans helpline and the Veterans Welfare Service which provide advice and support, as well as to the UK benefits provided for those in need.

The Service Personnel Command Paper (The Nations Commitment: Cross Government Support to our Armed Forces, their families and veterans) published by the Government in July 2008 show our commitment to all veterans.

It is the first cross-Government strategy to improve the level of support given to serving personnel, their families and veterans. It contains over 40 commitments aimed at ending any disadvantage imposed by the unique demands of service life and providing special treatment where appropriate.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who retired from the armed forces before 1975 do not receive an armed forces pension; and how many of those had over *(a)* 20, *(b)* 15 and *(c)* 10 years service. [278917]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Vehicles

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many combat vehicles of each type are in service with each infantry battalion; who the manufacturer of each type of vehicle is; and how many of each type of vehicle are available under urgent operational requirements to each battalion. [278966]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested for all "combat" vehicles is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of armoured tracked vehicles in service with each Infantry Battalion is shown in the following table.

Unit	*Warrior*	*CVR(T)*	*FV430*
1st Battalion The Scots Guards	26	8	8
4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	28	12	9
1st Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment	26	13	4
1st Battalion The Duke of Lancashire Regiment	0	8	36
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	34	16	11
1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment	0	12	58
3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	30	18	20
3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment	44	16	5
2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh	38	11	5
4th Battalion The Rifles	0	10	61
5th Battalion The Rifles	21	12	9

BAE Systems (formerly Alvis Vickers) manufactures all three vehicle types. None of these vehicles were procured through the Urgent Operational Requirement process. We do not release the numbers of vehicles available for deployment on operations, as its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the security and capability of the armed forces.

Puma Helicopters

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has awarded the contract for the upgrade of the Puma helicopters; and if he will make a statement. [278758]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No contract for the upgrade of our Puma helicopters has been placed.

RAND Corporation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each study commissioned by his Department from the RAND Corporation since 1997. [249733]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following studies are accessible electronically as follows:

Remuneration and its Motivation of Service Personnel: Focus Group Investigation and Analysis

http://www.rand.org/pubs/documented_briefings/DB549/

Motivations and Attitudes of New Recruits Regarding Remuneration Issues: Focus Group Investigation and Analysis

http://www.rand.org/pubs/documented_briefings/DB551/

Information Sharing Among Military Headquarters: The Impact on Decision Making

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG226/

Outsourcing and Outfitting Practices: Implications for the Ministry of Defence Shipbuilding Programmes

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG198/

Monitoring the Progress of Shipbuilding Programmes: How Can the Defence Procurement Agency More Accurately Monitor Progress?

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG235/

Differences Between Military and Commercial Shipbuilding: Implications for the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG236/

Options for Reducing Costs in the United Kingdom's Future Aircraft Carrier (CVF) Programme

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG240/

The United Kingdom's Naval Shipbuilding Industrial Base: The Next Fifteen Years

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG294/

The United Kingdom's Nuclear Submarine Industrial Base, Volume 1: Sustaining Design and Production Resources

http://www.rand.Org/pubs/monographs/MG326.1/

The United Kingdom's Nuclear Submarine Industrial Base, Volume 2: Ministry of Defence Roles and Required Technical Resources

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG326.2/

The United Kingdom's Nuclear Submarine Industrial Base, Volume 3: Options for Initial Fuelling

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG326.3/

Sustaining Key Skills in the UK Naval Industry

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG725/

The Royal Navy's New-Generation Type 45 Destroyer: Acquisition Options and Implications

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1486/

Assembling and Supporting the Joint Strike Fighter in the UK: Issues and Costs

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1771/

Copies of some studies are not held or are being withheld as their disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces, prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and another state or prejudice commercial interests.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 28 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 1159W, on Somalia: piracy, what records the Royal Navy keeps of the *(a)* identity and *(b)* activities of piracy suspects captured by its forces; and if he will make a statement. [273044]

Bill Rammell: When suspected pirates are encountered, Royal Navy personnel will collect evidence and take witness statements, as the police would during a criminal investigation. This information is then used to assess whether the evidence against the pirates is sufficiently strong to merit transfer to a third party state for the purpose of further investigation and, if appropriate, prosecution. If such a transfer is made, the evidence is passed to the authorities of the receiving state.

The Royal Navy keeps a record of those suspected pirates detained and transferred to the Kenyan authorities.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Learning for Pleasure

10. **Mrs. Cryer:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage people to learn for pleasure. [279011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: "The Learning Revolution" White Paper sets out our ambitious vision for informal learning in the 21st century, with an extra £30 million funding.

University Places

11. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications for university places were made for the academic year 2008-09; and how many students were accepted. [279012]

Mr. Lammy: UCAS data on full-time undergraduates shows there were 502,000 UK domiciled applicants last year.

Of that, 405,000 had accepted a place by the end of clearing.

18. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of new students who will apply for university and college places in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [279022]

Mr. Lammy: There were 457,000 UK domiciled UCAS applicants as of March this year. This is a 35,000 increase on the same point last year.

We do not have any estimates of applicant numbers for 2010.

Royal Mail

12. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made on the proposed part-privatisation of Royal Mail. [279014]

Mr. McFadden: The process to find a strategic partner for Royal Mail is ongoing. There has been interest and we are pursuing this with the companies concerned. As the Secretary of State has said

> "Our criteria, set out clearly in February, make it clear that any strategic partner must be motivated to modernise Royal Mail over the long term, and must offer value for money for the taxpayer. We will not do a deal at any price. There is some way to go and it may well take longer to reach agreement with a partner than it takes to debate and agree this Bill."

For commercial confidentiality reasons, it would not be appropriate to reveal the identities of the potential partners.

Student Finance

13. **Mr. Randall:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the proposed timetable and scope is of his Department's review of student finance. [279015]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Education and Skills, told the House in January 2004 that there would be an independent review of tuition fees once we had evidence on the first three years of the variable fee regime. The first three years of operation will not be concluded until the autumn. Ahead of the tuition fee review, the Government will publish their framework for the future development of higher education.

Balance of Trade: UK and India

15. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the balance of trade between the UK and India was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [279017]

Mr. McFadden: Bilateral trade between the UK and India is worth £12.13 billion.

Exports of UK goods and services to India in 2008 amounted to £5.89 billion[1].

Imports of goods and services from India to the UK in 2008 amounted to £6.24 billion[1].

[1] Source: Office of National Statistics.

South West Regional Development Agency

16. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will assess the performance of the South West Regional Development Agency against its objectives. [279018]

Mr. McFadden: RDAs, through their corporate plans set out key organisational objectives and deliverables. These set out their contributions to the Regional Economic Strategies. The Department has well established arrangements to assess the performance of RDAs, including SWRDA, against their corporate plan objectives through the RDA tasking and performance framework. These arrangements are under review as part of the SNR implementation. Further information will be laid in the House Library.

Further Education Capital Budget

17. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria apply to allocation of funding from the further education capital budget; and if he will make a statement. [279019]

Kevin Brennan: In line with Sir Andrew Foster's recommendations, the Learning and Skills Council has been consulting on the best approach to prioritise projects.

It has been confirmed that this will involve two processes—the first to ensure urgent projects can go ahead in the summer, the second to enable needs-based projects to go ahead as further funding is made available.

The criteria for projects to proceed in the first process include:

- whether the project is ready to start;
- its education and skills impact;
- its contribution to local economic and regeneration priorities;
- co-dependency with third parties;
- the condition of the estate; and
- value for money.

Basic Skills

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to ensure the delivery of the Government's Skills Agenda. [279013]

Kevin Brennan: This Department will continue to ensure the delivery of the Government Skills agenda. In support of these measures:

- we are this year spending an unprecedented £5 billion on adult skills, including £925 million on Train to Gain;
- we are spending over £1 billion on apprenticeships, bringing Government funding for apprenticeships to its highest ever level;
- we are providing targeted help for those who have lost their jobs or are facing redundancy; and
- we are investing a further £1 billion per year until 2010-11 in Skills for Life.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the UK's skills base. [279023]

Kevin Brennan: This Department will continue to ensure the successful delivery of the Government Skills agenda.

Train to Gain has helped nearly one million learners and thousands of businesses. Starts in 2007-08 totalled 331,800—an increase of 60.8 per cent. on 2006-07.

Apprenticeship starts have increased from 65,000 in 1996-97 to 224,800 for 2007-09. This represents the largest ever number of people starting an Apprenticeship.

Over 5.7 million adults have engaged with the Skills for Life programme. 12 million Skills for Life opportunities have been taken up, with over 2.8 million adults gaining a first qualification. We have met the 2010 target of 2.25 million achievements in skills for life two years early.

Low-Carbon Economy

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to assist in the development of a low-carbon economy. [279021]

Mr. McFadden: A low carbon economy represents a huge economic opportunity for the UK, and is at the heart of 'New Industry, New Jobs', the Government's strategic vision for Britain's economic recovery. Budget 2009 provided £1.4 billion of extra targeted support in the low carbon sector. The Low Carbon Industrial Strategy, to be published this summer, will provide a framework to ensure UK business and workers can compete successfully for the jobs of the low carbon future.

Social Mobility

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what policies of his Department have objectives to increase social mobility. [278999]

Mr. McFadden: The 'New Opportunities' White Paper sets out Government's commitment to help people get on and get ahead. The key actions we are taking include expanding apprenticeships; tackling the NEET problem; and widening participation in HE. We are tripling the number of career development loans and maximising the help that FE colleges and providers can give to individuals looking for work or wanting to get on.

Building enterprise capability and the confidence and ambition to start a business are critical and we are supporting some key activities to enable individuals and businesses to start and grow. We are:

Working with young people to provide them with experience of enterprise and opportunities to develop the necessary skills and confidence;

Directly supporting individuals to hone their ideas and start a business as well as established businesses who want to thrive and grow through the Government's streamlined portfolio of business support products and services, delivered via Business Link;

And helping to remove barriers to enterprise especially improving access to finance.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 12 June 2009

DEFENCE

Air Force: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for use of the vacant United States' European Command housing units at *(a)* RAF Molesworth and *(b)* RAF Chevelston; and if he will make a statement. [278984]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The United States Department of Defence announced on 15 April 2009, that the two residential estates at RAF Molesworth and RAF Chevelston were to be released to the Ministry of Defence.

If they are not required for defence purposes, the estate will be disposed of in accordance with HM Treasury guidelines (Managing Public Money).

Armed Forces: Pensions

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse would be of extending eligibility for a full armed forces pension to those who retired from the armed forces before 1975; and what percentage of his Department's budget this would represent. [278881]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is not practical to make an accurate estimate of the cost of making pension awards to those service personnel who served less than 22 years (16 years for officers) reckonable service prior to 1975.

Given the similarities with other schemes, the cost of providing pensions for pre-1975 service on a retrospective basis across the public sector would be prohibitive—exceeding tens of billions of pounds.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will consider extending eligibility for an armed forces pension to those who retired from the armed forces before 1975; [278882]

(2) if he will review the criteria for entitlement to a full armed forces pension for people who retired from the armed forces before 1975; and if he will make a statement; [278919]

(3) when the criteria for entitlement to a full armed forces pension for people who retired from the armed forces before 1975 were last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [278920]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There remains no realistic prospect that this or any Government could afford to address these public sector pension legacy issues. For further details I refer the hon. Member to the speech given by the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces in the Adjournment Debate on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 338-340, which clearly set out the legislative and policy background to this matter.

There are therefore no plans to review the criteria for entitlement for an armed forces pension.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who retired from the armed forces before 1975 and are *(a)* disabled, *(b)* injured and *(c)* have ill health as a result of their service do not receive an armed forces pension. [278916]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held. If an individual had been invalided from the armed forces with a disability attributable to or aggravated by service they would have been considered for an armed forces pension. Should the disability arise after the individual had left the armed forces, and it is proved that the disablement was caused by service, they may be eligible to receive an award under the War Pension Scheme.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people who retired from the armed forces before 1975 and who had served in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* the Second World War, *(c)* Greece, *(d)* Korea, *(e)* Cyprus and *(f)* Palestine do not receive an armed forces pension. [278921]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Crown Dependencies: Armed Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what UK armed forces are based in *(a)* St. Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, *(b)* South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands and *(c)* the Falkland Islands. [279093]

Bill Rammell: There are some 1,250 UK armed forces personnel based in the South Atlantic Islands, the majority on the Falkland Islands, supported by a small detachment based on Ascension Island. This figure varies during the year due to individual posting plots and unit moves. There are no UK armed forces based in St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278827]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information currently available for the Department, its agencies and trading funds is provided in the following table:

	MOD and agencies		UK hydrographic office		Met office		Defence science and technology laboratory	
Month	Total invoices	% paid within 10 days	Total invoices	% paid within 10 days	Total invoices	% paid within 10 days	Total invoices	% paid within 10 days
June 2008	—	—	—	—	—	—	2884	23.6
July 2008	—	—	—	—	—	—	2466	27.5
August 2008	—	—	—	—	—	—	2445	19.4
September 2008	—	—	—	—	—	—	2772	23.9
October 2008	—	—	—	—	—	—	2393	23.1
November 2008	390,154	72.3	—	—	—	—	2371	19.7
December 2008	415,608	83.0	—	—	—	—	3050	26.0
January 2009	361,494	88.0	—	—	1267	55.5	1967	46.0
February 2009	459246	85.0	—	—	1010	82.5	2686	19.9
March 2009	466,246	90.7	740	94.7	1271	86.2	2673	38.3
April 2009	472,666	92.8	931	97.6	1090	61.3	—	—
May 2009	445,846	95.4	972	98.1	1922	77.5	—	—

We are working with the Defence Support Group towards a target to pay trade creditors' invoices within 10 days of receipt.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to answer question 273046, on Somali piracy, tabled on 29 April 2009. [278570]

Bill Rammell: My predecessor, the right hon. Member for Coventry, North-East (Mr. Ainsworth) replied on 4 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 627W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether records of DNA profiles are held on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System. [279080]

Chris Bryant: There are no records of DNA profiles held on the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System.

British Overseas Territories: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 357W, on British Overseas Territories: environment protection, what projects were funded from the £65,058 granted to the British Virgin Islands. [279075]

Chris Bryant: The following projects have been funded from the £65,058 granted under the Overseas Territories Environment Programme to the British Virgin Islands:

Assisting the Jost Van Dyke Preservation Society to advance environmental protection and sustainable development;

The publishing and launch of an Environmental CD Atlas and Teaching Resource for schools;

Improving management of marine protected areas through assessment of the Marine Conservation Programme;

Construction of a Mangrove Wetland Interpretive Centre;

Working with the Conservation and Fisheries Department on a National Environmental Action Plan.

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279505]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no current contracts with Demos.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the average number of days taken to pay an invoice by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies was in each month since November 2008. [279525]

Chris Bryant: The average number of days taken to pay an invoice in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are as follows:

	Days
November 2008	11.5
December 2008	11.5
January 2009	13.2
February 2009	9.5
March 2009	8.7
April 2009	14.8
May 2009	10.0

FCO Services is a trading fund that has a separate payments system. FCO Services figures for these months are

	Days
November 2008	20
December 2008	12
January 2009	9
February 2009	8
March 2009	10
April 2009	11
May 2009	13

Both the FCO and FCO Services recognise the importance of paying suppliers promptly, and ensure that valid invoices are paid as soon as possible.

Departmental Marketing

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers in each of the last five years. [277156]

Chris Bryant: Consular communications in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has advertised in weekly and regional newspapers as part of its ongoing travel safety campaign for British nationals between April 2005 and March 2009.

These advertorials were placed as part of a targeted and multimedia campaign. Where possible the campaign concentrated on editorial coverage; where advertorial space was bought it was part of a negotiated package and was usually below the standard cost.

Prior to 2007-08 no funds were spent on advertising in weekly and regional newspapers (in this area).

	Total spend (£)
2007-08	18,000.00
2008-09	38,300.00

Human resources directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advertises in weekly and regional newspapers for recruitment purposes.

	Total spend (£)
2006-07	164,960.62
2007-08	73,574.48
2008-09	18,323.85

Note:
Figures are not available for the financial year 2005-06.

The large reduction in advertising costs over the period for which figures are available is due to a large increase in the use of internet advertising, together with a large reduction in the number of recruitment campaigns from 2006-07 to the present financial year.

Diplomatic Service

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consular staff his Department employs in each of its embassies in Africa. [279035]

Chris Bryant: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff carrying out consular activities in Africa is 114. About 80 per cent. of these staff are locally hired, the remainder being diplomatic service officers. The following list provides the details by post within Africa.

Post name	*Consular FTE*
Abidjan	0.3
Abuja	0.8
Accra	5.8
Addis Ababa	1.6
Agadir	1.0
Alexandria	0.9
Algiers	0.7
Asmara	1.1
Banjul	1.5
Cairo	10.0
Cape Town	4.0
Conakry	0.3
Dakar	1.2
Dar Es Salaam	1.9
Freetown	0.9
Gaborone	0.9
Harare	7.8
Kampala	2.1
Khartoum	1.7
Kigali	0.8
Kinshasa	0.4
Lagos	14.0
Lilongwe	2.2
Luanda	0.3
Lusaka	2.2
Maputo	1.3
Marrakech	1.0
Nairobi	11.5
Port Louis	2.3
Pretoria	22.8
Rabat	1.3
Tangier	1.6
Tripoli	1.9
Tunis	3.6
Victoria	1.6
Windhoek	0.5
Yaounde	0.4

Election Observers

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to send election observers to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights election observation missions in *(a)* Bulgaria and *(b)* Kyrgyzstan. [278796]

Chris Bryant: We plan to send election observers to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights election observation missions in Kyrgyzstan on 23 July 2009.

We do not usually send OSCE observers to elections in EU countries.

European Court of Justice

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of changes in Government policy or practice necessitated by judgments made in the European Court of Justice since 2005. [277112]

Chris Bryant: Any change to Government policy or practice, resulting from judgments made in the European Courts, would be the responsibility of the Government Department concerned. No estimate has been made as to the total cost across Government of amending policy or practice due to European Court judgments.

North Korea

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which luxury goods may not be exported to North Korea under the terms of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 (2006). [278631]

David Miliband: UN Security Council Resolution 1718 decided that all UN Member States shall prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of luxury goods. The Resolution did not specify which items were defined as luxury goods. Council Regulation 329/2007 defined those goods for the purposes of EU implementation. The list is available in Annex III of Council Regulation (EC) No. 329/2007.

Poland: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on anti-Semitism in Poland; and if he will make a statement. [278236]

Chris Bryant: Our embassy in Warsaw is in touch with non-governmental organisations and relevant Polish Government representatives that deal with and monitor anti-Semitism. A lot of work has been done since 1988 to improve understanding and bring about reconciliation. The Polish Government have recently highlighted some of their initiatives in their interim report, responding to a 2007 memorandum, to the Council of Europe Commissioner for human rights. This can be found on the Commissioner's website:

http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/News/2009/090420PolandReport_en.asp

The Polish Government are also very supportive of the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews which is due to open in 2011 and of which President Kaczynski is patron.

South America: Embassies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consular staff his Department employs in other of its embassies in South America. [279732]

Chris Bryant: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff carrying out consular activities in South America is 29.2. About 80 per cent. of these staff are locally hired, the remainder being diplomatic service officers. The following list provides the details by post within South America.

Post name	*Consular FTE*
Bogota	4.2
Brasilia	0.7
Buenos Aires	3.4
Caracas	3.0
Georgetown	0.9
La Paz	0.8
Lima	2.9
Montevideo	1.6
Quito	2.0
Rio de Janeiro	3.8
Santiago	3.6
Sao Paulo	2.2

HEALTH

Arthritis: Health Services

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to provide patients with rheumatoid arthritis with *(a)* an effective treatment pathway and *(b)* an individual care management plan. [279139]

Ann Keen: The Department has developed in partnership with a wide group of stakeholders an 18 weeks commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis. The pathway describes an ideal treatment pathway meeting all best practice guidance and recommends the use of individual care management plans for patients with this condition. The pathway will be published on 12 June 2009 on the 18 week website. The Department has also made a commitment in "High Quality Care for All", the final report of the NHS Next Stage Review that everyone with a long term condition will be offered a personalised care plan by 2010.

Burns: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the recommendation put forward by the National Burns Network Board for the treatment of *(a)* adult and *(b)* paediatric burns patients in Liverpool; and if he will make a statement; [279617]

(2) what his latest assessment is of the standards of care for *(a)* adult and *(b)* paediatric burns patients in Liverpool. [279618]

Ann Keen: The Northern Burns Care Network has developed proposals for the future configuration of supra-regional burns care adult and paediatric centres, for the treatment of the most serious and highly complex patients. This included an extensive process of engagement and involvement of users/carers, clinicians, and overview and scrutiny committee representatives across the North West, North East, Yorkshire and Humber and North Wales.

The recommendations from these proposals will be considered over the next six weeks by the strategic health authority assurance review team, a workshop of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the National Burns Care Group and the National Specialised Commissioning Group. In the light of advice from these fora, local commissioners will then take decisions about this phase of the response to the National Burn Care Review.

For the whole of the northern network, the total number of very severe burns patients is estimated to be 11-22 children and 45-55 adults per annum. Based on the recommended configuration being considered for supra-regional centres, the potential number of such patients requiring transfer from Liverpool hospitals would be approximately three children and eight adults per annum. Any patients treated within these services will be transferred back to their local 'regional burn care' centres once they are well enough to continue their rehabilitation and long-term care.

The National Burn Care Group has developed clinically-led standards for specialised burn care based on the National Burn Care Review. Currently, no hospitals in the northern network meet the new burns care standards for Supra-Regional Centres. The new proposals are an initial step towards achieving these standards. In addition, support from the Northern Burn Care Network will continue to be given to upgrade the facilities of Regional Burn Care Centres across the network and also to strengthen the Regional Centres to enable them to give improved support to patients currently treated for more minor burn injuries in primary care and district general hospitals.

Fractures

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether financial incentives are available to primary care trusts to encourage health professionals to identify and treat those at a high risk of fragility fracture. [279628]

Phil Hope: The forthcoming prevention package for older people will contain guidance to support commissioners to be more cost effective in commissioning services for falls and fractures within their existing budgets in the form of a patient care pathway. It is for local primary care trusts to decide how they take forward work in this area.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress his Department has made in the development of coherent clinical guidance on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of falls, fragility fractures and osteoporosis. [279633]

Phil Hope: The Department is committed to work on falls and fracture prevention. The National Service Framework for Older People (2001) (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library) already sets out clear standards and actions for the prevention and treatment of falls. In addition, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is in the process of reviewing its clinical guideline on the prevention of falls in older people. The new prevention package for older people will also support improvement in this area through a commissioning pathway for falls.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department allocated to cognitive behavioural therapy treatments in NHS facilities in each of the last three years. [279565]

Phil Hope: The Department does not allocate funding to specific treatments in national health service facilities and so does not have this information. However, throughout the last three years, the Government have been running the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, which is helping the NHS implement National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance for the treatment of common mental health problems and over the next few years will make cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) more widely available than ever before. This is because CBT is one of the key treatments recommended by NICE.

In 2006-07, the programme launched two pilot projects in Newham and Doncaster, to which it allocated a total of £3 million.

In 2007-08, the programme also ran 11 smaller pilots, to which it allocated a further £2 million.

In 2008-09, a national roll-out of NICE-compliant psychological therapies began with the creation of services in 35 primary care trusts (PCTs) costing a total of £33 million. This involves a training programme for 3,600 new therapy workers over three years. Initially, the training for this workforce has focused on CBT because this is where the biggest shortage lies and it supports the NHS in delivering the NICE treatment guidelines.

This investment is continuing to increase substantially, with a further 80 services coming on stream in the autumn bringing the total to £103 million in 2009-10, and every PCT beginning to establish these new services in 2010 when the investment will rise to £173 million.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which mental health conditions are treated by cognitive behavioural therapy available on the NHS; and what the average waiting time between diagnosis and commencement of a course of treatment was in each primary care trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [279566]

Phil Hope: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence recommends the national health service to offer cognitive behavioural therapy as a treatment for: antenatal and postnatal mental health problems; anti-social personality disorder; anxiety; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; bipolar disorder; borderline personality disorder; dementia; depression in adults, children and young people; drug misuse; bulimia; obsessive compulsive disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; schizophrenia; self-harming; and violence. The actual use of this treatment is recorded in individual patient records and not held centrally. No data are held centrally on the average waiting time between diagnosis and the start of treatment. However, one of the central aims of the improving access to psychological therapies programme is to ensure that people needing to access these treatments are able to do so more rapidly by providing them in primary and community settings, such as general practitioner surgeries.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time between diagnosis and the commencement of a course of cognitive behavioural therapy was for persons diagnosed with schizophrenia in each primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [279567]

Phil Hope: Data about the waiting time between diagnosis and the start of a course of cognitive behavioural therapy for people with schizophrenia are not held centrally.

NHS: Public Consultation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department has allocated to local involvement networks for each of the next 10 years. [279217]

Ann Keen: The allocations to local authorities with social services responsibilities for the purposes of establishing and supporting local involvement networks (LINks) were announced as part of the local government finance settlement for 2008-09. The announcement covered the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11.

No Government spending beyond this date has been agreed.

Skin Cancer: Health Education

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to increase levels of public awareness of skin cancer. [278798]

Gillian Merron: SunSmart is the national skin cancer and sun protection campaign and is run by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the UK Health Departments. The 2009 campaign highlights the rising rate of skin cancer, focuses on teenagers and young people, and aims to raise public awareness of the dangers of sunbeds and sunburn. It offers practical information on protecting the skin in the sun. As well as engaging with the media to promote skin cancer prevention, the SunSmart website

www.info.cancerresearchuk.org/healthyliving/sunsmart/

provides information and advice and downloadable resources on the risks to health of sunbeds and sunburn. The campaign has also created interventions to reach young people through social networking sites.

OLYMPICS

Football: Olympic Games 2012

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost of hosting the London 2012 Olympics football events at *(a)* Hampden Park, *(b)* the Millennium Stadium, *(c)* Old Trafford, *(d)* St James' Park, *(e)* Villa Park and *(f)* Wembley Stadium. [278321]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for staging the Olympic and Paralympic Games at existing venues. The direct costs associated with staging the events at existing venues come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

Olympic Games 2012: Hadleigh

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of hosting the Olympic mountain biking event at Hadleigh. [278012]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has responsibility for delivering the mountain bike event at Hadleigh Farm, working with Essex county council. Direct costs of staging the event come from LOCOG's revenues which are primarily derived from commercial sponsorship, broadcast rights, ticket sales and merchandising/licensing—not from the public purse.

There will be attributable costs to the public purse, for example in respect of the security and transport functions associated with the venue. However these costs have not yet been identified separately for individual venues, but they will form part of the overall security and transport budgets.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Climate Change

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department has taken to adapt to climate change in the last two years. [277650]

Barbara Follett: Operational measures the Department for Culture, Media and Sport took to adapt to climate change included the introduction of a new waste management scheme which ensured that as much is recycled as possible. With the help of the Carbon Trust, the Department worked with manufacturers to pilot an innovative lighting scheme which reduced the energy used and improved efficiency. The Department also trialled a scheme which is now being rolled out across Government which adjusted the voltage used to the lowest optimal level. The Department has also replaced new gas boilers with more energy efficient ones, which means that our premises are able to respond more effectively to changing weather conditions while ensuring the safety of staff is maintained.

We are encouraging our non departmental public bodies to introduce similar measures.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of his Department's potential gross *(a)* costs and *(b)* savings arising from its climate change adaptation measures in the next three years. [277727]

Barbara Follett: It is not currently possible to provide estimates of the potential costs and savings over the next three years.

The Government are undertaking a climate change risk assessment and economic analysis, which will provide estimates of the costs and benefits of adaptation to the UK. This analysis will be presented to Parliament within three years of the Climate Change Act coming in to force.

Cultural Heritage

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to publish details of the Government's vision and priorities for the historic environment before the Summer Adjournment. [279113]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are aiming to publish the Historic Environment Vision Statement in the summer.

Demos

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has any contracts with the think-tank Demos. [279513]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not have any contracts with Demos.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278824]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department's performance of payment of invoices within 10 days of receipt in each month since November 2008 is set out in the table. Prior to November 2008, there was no requirement to gather and maintain data on this basis. To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department's Agency, The Royal Parks, is not able to record the information in the format requested and can provide it only at disproportionate cost.

Month	*Percentage of invoices paid within 10 working days*
November 2008	43
December 2008	77
January 2009	80
February 2009	87
March 2009	88
April 2009	87
May 2009	85

Gambling: Sports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when he expects the new expert panel on sports betting to produce its first report on its work; [278937]

(2) what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* work plan of the new expert panel on sports betting will be; [278938]

(3) who the members of the new expert panel on sports betting will be; [278939]

(4) when he expects the new expert panel on sports betting to be established. [278940]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The expert panel on sports betting will be established very soon and I will announce the members, terms of reference and work plan at that time. I will be asking the chair to recommend to me, within six months, a practical, effective and proportionate plan of action that has the support of those responsible for delivery.

Sports: Drugs

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what legal obligations are imposed on the Government by the 2005 UNESCO International Convention on Doping in Sport. [279123]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport (the Convention) provides a legally binding framework for Governments to take a range of measures to tackle doping in sport and apply the principles set out in the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code).

In summary this includes, where appropriate—funding and supporting a national testing programme; supporting education and training on anti-doping; adopting, or encouraging sport and anti-doping organisations to adopt, measures to restrict the availability and prevent the misuse of prohibited substances and methods in sport; withholding funding from persons suspended for doping violations, or bodies not in compliance with the Code; encouraging and promoting anti-doping research; encouraging best practice in the marketing of nutritional supplements; and encouraging international cooperation in the fight against doping.

The UK primarily complies with its obligations under the Convention by way of administrative action taken by UK Sport, the UK's national anti-doping organisation. Full details of the Convention can be found at:

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=31037&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what obligations arise in UK law from the Government's signature of the 2009 World Anti-Doping Code. [279124]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 June 2009]:* The UK Government are not a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code (the Code). However, it supports the principles set out in the Code through its ratification of the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport (the Convention). This provides a legally binding framework for Governments to take a range of measures to tackle doping in sport and apply the principles set out in the Code.

The UK primarily complies with its obligations under the Convention by way of administrative action taken by UK Sport, the UK's national anti-doping organisation. UK Sport is responsible for the implementation of the national anti-doping testing programme in accordance with the UK's anti-doping policy, which is fully compliant with the requirements of the Code. UK Sport ensures National Governing Bodies of sport comply with the Code through a policy and administrative approach.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the legal basis is for the testing of professional sportsmen and women for drug use in the UK. [279125]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 June 2009]*: UK Sport is designated by Government to deliver the UK's national anti-doping testing programme in line with its 'National Anti-Doping Policy' and the principles and processes set out in the World Anti-Doping Code and accompanying International Standards.

It carries out tests on sportsmen and women on the basis of their consent, either through a contractual relationship they may have with their National Federation or as a member, license holder etc. of their National Federation. In both cases they will consent to abiding by the rules of that sport, which include the anti-doping rules, and to make themselves available for testing.

Tourism: Balance of Payments

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the UK's tourism balance of payments was for 2008-09; and what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on the equivalent figures for *(a)* France, *(b)* Spain and *(c)* the US in the same period. [277471]

Barbara Follett: *[holding answer 1 June 2009]*: Provisional data from the International Passenger Survey estimate a tourism balance of payments deficit of £20 billion in 2008-09.

The Spanish Institute of Tourism Studies have published their 2008-09 tourism balance of payments showing a £24 billion surplus. The French Ministère de l'économie, de l'industrie et de l'emploi

http://www.minefe.gouv.fr/

published a paper "Le tourism en France en 2008" stating the provisional figures from the Banque de France on the tourism balance of payments surplus is £8.6 billion.

In March 2009 the Bureau of Economic Analysis, part of the US Department of Commerce, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, published a tourism balance of payments surplus of £17.9 billion.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an estimate for benchmarking purposes of the level of financial support given to the tourist industry in other EU member states by their governments. [275814]

Barbara Follett: DCMS does not keep a record the financial support given to the tourist industry in other EU member states by their Governments.

However in 2005 the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) published the following figures in their report 'Structures and Budgets of National Tourism Organisations, 2004/05'. These figures only reflect central government funding for marketing inbound tourism, and do not include regional or local government spend on marketing. These figures have been converted into sterling from dollars at the March 2005 exchange rate.

The UNWTO have confirmed they plan to publish updated figures in the autumn for the period 2006-08.

Country (alphabetical)	*Public sector budget for 2005 administer by National Tourist Office/Agency (£ million[1])*	*Percentage public sector contribution to total budget (i.e. rest from private sector)*
Austria	30.6	64.9
Czech Republic	4.5	100
Denmark	18.2	62.3
Finland	17.6	61.1
France	33.7	53.6
Germany	20.6	78.8
Greece	80.6	93.7
Hungary	11.7	90.3
Ireland	43.7	97.2
Italy	32.9	86.7
Netherlands	18.5	64.3
Norway	18.9	32.2
Poland	5.1	99.8
Spain	63.7	100
Sweden	9.3	70.4
UK	35.5	72.9

[1] Figures shown are converted to £ figures at the March 2005 exchange rate.

Source:

UNWTO, Structures and Budgets of National Tourism Organisations, 2005.

JUSTICE

Prisoners Release

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average amount received in discharge grants by offenders sentenced to two months' imprisonment was in the latest year for which figures are available. [277281]

Maria Eagle: Prison Service Order (PSO) 6400 (Discharge) says that, to be eligible for a discharge grant, prisoners must have been given a custodial sentence of more than 14 days. The grant is £46 and is not apportionable.

The Prison Service has become aware that, following the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 which required that prisoners serving sentences of one year or less be released at the halfway point of their sentence, PSO 6400 was not sufficiently clear and its original intention has been misinterpreted. A revised Instruction has been issued to address this, clarifying that a prisoner must serve a sentence, of which the custodial period is more than 14 days.

Prisoners Release: Foreigners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were released from prisons in each of the last 10 years. [278427]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of discharges of adult and young adult foreign national prisoners from completed determinate sentences between 1999 and 2007. Data have been rounded to the nearest 100.

	Number of FNP discharges
1999	4,300
2000	4,400
2001	4,700
2002	5,200
2003	6,200
2004	7,100
2005	7,400
2006	7,700
2007	8,100

Improved data quality in the last year means that these data differ from previously released information. Data on all discharges will be published in the summer in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008. Data for 1997 and 1998 are not available.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Sentencing: Crimes of Violence

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of fixed-term sentences for serious violent offences. [278925]

Claire Ward: There has been no recent consideration of the merits of fixed-term sentences for serious violent offences. No two cases are the same and the Government believe that the courts should be able to take into account all the circumstances in each case to determine the appropriate sentence. The Government have provided the courts with more options for dealing with serious violent offences, including indeterminate sentences where appropriate: the Criminal Justice Act 2003 introduced a new sentence of imprisonment for public protection for dangerous offenders. Under this sentence, the court sets the minimum tariff to be served by the offender and release is determined by the Parole Board on the basis of the risk presented to the community. The Government believe that this sentence offers the best protection to the public from the most dangerous violent, and sexual, offenders.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Official Hospitality

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Support Agency spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [276364]

Jonathan Shaw: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the Child Support Agency spent on hospitality and entertainment in each of the last five years. [276364]

The information you requested is provided in the table below.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2004-05	2,393
2005-06	2,462
2006-07	4,726
2007-08	2,732
2008-09[1]	5,392

[1] Figures for 2008/09 have not yet been audited by the National Audit Office and are therefore subject to change.

All expenditure on entertainment, also known as hospitality, is made in accordance with guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which months since 1993 the number of cases on which decisions on maintenance have been made by the Child Support Agency and its successor have been exceeded by the number of case applications received; and what the figures in each category were in each such month. [278259]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 June 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in which months since 1993 the number of cases on which decisions on maintenance have been made by the Child Support Agency and its successor have been exceeded by the number of case applications received; and what the figures in each category were in each such month. [278259]

The information you have requested is only available for the current statutory scheme from April 2003, and it is set out in the following table.

Applications received exceeded clearances each month until March 2005 onwards when clearances exceeded applications received except in September 2005, October 2005, January 2006, February 2006, March 2006, and January 2008.

The Agency has exceeded the expectations of the three year Operational Improvement Plan with just 49,200 uncleared current scheme applications at the end of March 2009 down from 225,600 in March 2005. This is the lowest number of current scheme applications outstanding since May 2003, two months after the scheme was launched.

Table 2.1 of the March 2009 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) gives information on the number of current scheme cases received and cleared by the Agency. The QSS is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Month	*Applications received*	*Applications cleared*
March 2003	11,100	1,400
April 2003	16,600	2,800
May 2003	20,900	3,600
June 2003	23,100	7,900
July 2003	26,800	10,500
August2003	21,700	10,800
September 2003	25,000	16,100
October 2003	31,100	18,300
November 2003	26,300	16,300
December 2003	18,500	14,100
January 2004	25,800	16,200
February 2004	23,800	16,200
March 2004	30,100	18,800
April 2004	28,400	26,000
May 2004	30,000	18,300
June 2004	26,900	17,700
July 2004	23,900	16,700
August 2004	26,400	16,000
September 2004	25,400	18,000
October 2004	24,900	18,000
November 2004	25,000	19,200
December 2004	18,900	13,800
January 2005	23,200	20,400
February 2005	25,000	22,700
March 2005	25,300	26,800
April 2005	24,500	25,200
May 2005	25,100	27,400
June 2005	24,800	26,100
July 2005	25,400	26,600
August 2005	23,100	25,500
September 2005	24,900	24,500
October 2005	27,500	25,200
November 2005	29,900	32,800
December 2005	23,400	27,100
January 2006	30,000	28,800
February 2006	34,500	29,900
March 2006	34,700	34,000
April 2006	24,700	29,400
May 2006	24,600	26,600
June 2006	25,600	28,800
July 2006	23,400	30,900
August 2006	24,600	26,500
September 2006	23,100	25,900
October 2006	20,000	29,300
November 2006	22,200	23,700
December 2006	16,400	20,000
January 2007	24,600	27,200
February 2007	33,600	48,100
March 2007	27,400	40,200
April 2007	22,300	28,600
May 2007	24,900	31,500
June 2007	26,100	31,000
July 2007	24,700	30,700
August 2007	26,800	29,200
September 2007	25,200	26,900
October 2007	27,300	29,000
November 2007	27,000	29,800
December 2007	18,100	20,400
January 2008	28,200	27,900
February 2008	27,000	30,600
March 2008	21,700	27,000
April 2008	24,500	28,000
May 2008	22,600	26,400
June 2008	24,100	30,300
July 2008	26,200	31,900
August 2008	16,500	20,900
September 2008	11,900	15,600
October 2008	7,800	19,800
November 2008	7,300	11,600
December 2008	5,300	9,700
January 2009	8,100	9,200
February 2009	7,900	9,000
March 2009	7,700	10,300

Notes:

1. Only includes current scheme cases. Data only available from March 2003.

2. Cleared applications are those that have had a maintenance calculation carried out and a payment arrangement between the parent with care and non-resident parent put in place; a maintenance calculation carried out and nil liability established; a parent with care has been identified as claiming good cause or is subject to a reduced benefit decision; the application is identified as being a change of circumstance on an existing case; or the application has been closed.

3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many drug treatment places will be provided to support the planned introduction of a treatment allowance. [275547]

Jonathan Shaw: The provision of drug treatment places to support the drugs pilots will be met from within existing allocations.

Jobcentre Plus: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* benefit delivery centres and *(b)* customer-facing jobcentres were operated by Jobcentre Plus in each London borough in each of the last 24 months. [276544]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 May 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) benefit delivery centres and (b) customer-facing jobcentres were operated by Jobcentre Plus in each London borough in each of the last 24 months. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I have attached a table which gives a breakdown of current Jobcentres and Benefit Delivery Centres in each London Borough.

With regard to the past 24 months, no offices closed in 2007 or 2008 but three closed during 2009, those at Orpington, Brixton Hill and Feltham.

London Jobcentre Plus office network by London boroughs

London borough	*Jobcentres*	*Benefit delivery centres*
Barking and Dagenham	2	—

London Jobcentre Plus office network by London boroughs

London borough	*Jobcentres*	*Benefit delivery centres*
Barnet	4	—
Bexley	1	—
Brent	4	—
Bromley	2	—
Camden	1	—
Croydon	3	—
Ealing	2	—
Enfield	3	—
Greenwich	2	—
Hackney	3	1
Hammersmith & Fulham	4	—
Haringey	2	—
Harrow	2	—
Havering	2	—
Hillingdon	2	—
Hounslow	2	—
Islington	3	—
Kensington & Chelsea	1	—
Kingston	1	—
Lambeth	5	—
Lewisham	3	—
Merton	1	—
Newham	4	1
Redbridge	1	1
Richmond	1	—
Southwark	4	—
Sutton	1	—
Tower Hamlets	2	—
Waltham Forest	2	—
Wandsworth	1	1
Westminster	2	—
Total	73	4

Jobcentre Plus: Interviews

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average a jobseeker's interview with a personal adviser *(a)* for initial assessment, *(b)* to make a jobseeker's agreement, *(c)* to sign on and *(d)* for other purposes lasted in the latest period for which figures are available. [271623]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how long on average a jobseeker's interview with a personal adviser (a) for initial assessment (b) to make a jobseeker's agreement (c) to sign on and (d) for other purposes lasts. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Everyone making a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) has a one-to-one interview with a personal adviser to assess their circumstances, discuss and set in place a Jobseeker's Agreement and make sure they have information about and access to the help they need. The average length of this interview is 40 minutes, but the actual time taken will vary depending upon individual customer needs.

Following the new jobseeker interview, customers are usually required to attend face-to-face fortnightly jobsearch reviews, the purpose of which is to make sure they are actively seeking work (and therefore entitled to JSA) and to see what help, if any, they need. The average time allocation for these contacts is 7.5 minutes, but the actual time taken will vary depending upon customer needs. Following the new jobseeker interview, many people find work very quickly (about 60% by 13 weeks) and need little, if any, additional help, so jobsearch reviews will involve a limited discussion to make sure people are actively seeking work and making best use of appropriate vacancy sources. Other customers will need more support in which case jobsearch reviews will take longer.

For those people who do not find work quickly, a review is undertaken at or around 13 weeks. The average length of this review is 20 minutes, but the method of delivery and duration of contact will vary, depending upon individual needs. The process usually involves a one to one discussion with an adviser, particularly where the Jobseeker's Agreement needs revising and the customer needs more help to agree how best to increase their chances of finding work, but group sessions may also be used to give general information about access to jobs and services to help improve job prospects. Following the 13-week review process, people continue to receive regular jobsearch reviews, but for a period of six weeks, these are on a weekly (rather than fortnightly) basis.

As part of the recently announced six-month offer, all customers reaching six months unemployment are now allocated a personal adviser who will see them regularly to help prepare and follow through an action plan, which will offer the best chance of leading to a job. The amount of adviser time allocated for the initial interview is 50 minutes, though the time actually taken will vary depending upon individual circumstances and what is decided and agreed will happen next. Following the initial interview, advisers have an average of three hours contact time for each customer, which is used flexibly by advisers to suit individual customer circumstances and needs.

Jobcentre Plus: Redundancy Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Jobcentre Plus has spent on redundancy payments in each year since it was established; and what proportion of staff costs such expenditure represents in each year. [269046]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your questions asking how much Jobcentre Plus has spent on redundancy payments in each year since it was established and what proportion of staff costs such expenditure represents in each year. This something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive.

The information requested is shown in the following table:

	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Redundancy costs (£ million)	1.9	2.6	14.5	123.8	44.0	72.7
Proportion of staff costs (percentage)	0.1	0.2	0.8	[illegible].6	2.4	4.1

Source:
Jobcentre Plus annual accounts and departmental financial systems.

Jobcentre Plus: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how Jobcentre Plus performed against its *(a)* job outcome target, *(b)* monetary value of fraud and error target, *(c)* employer outcome target, *(d)* customer service target, *(e)* business delivery target and *(f)* average actual clearance time target in each month since each target was introduced. [252980]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question how Jobcentre Plus performed against its (a) job outcome target, (b) monetary value of fraud and error target, (c) employer outcome target, (d) customer service target, (e) business delivery target and (f) average actual clearance time target in each month since each target was introduced. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Business Delivery Target is no longer a Jobcentre Plus target. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many calls received by the Jobcentre Plus contact centre were *(a)* answered and *(b)* not answered (i) in each month of the last two years and (ii) in each year since 1997; and what the average waiting time for a call to be answered was in each such period; [271684]

(2) how many calls received by the Jobcentre Plus virtual telephony platform were *(a)* answered and *(b)* not answered in each (i) month and (ii) year since the platform became operational; and what the average waiting time for a call to be answered was in each such period. [271685]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked the Acting Chief Executive to provide the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many calls received by the Jobcentre Plus contact centre were (a) answered and (b) not answered (i) in each month of the last two years and (ii) in each year since 1997; and what the average waiting time for a call to be answered was in each such period, and how many calls received by the Jobcentre Plus virtual telephony platform were (a) answered and (b) not answered; and what the average waiting time for a call to be answered was in each such period in each (i) month and (ii) year since the platform became operational. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The tables below provide information on the total number of calls offered to Jobcentre Plus contact centres and the numbers answered and unanswered with average speed of answer where available.

Monthly totals in each of the last two years

	Calls offered	*Calls answered*	*Calls not answered*	*Average speed of answer*
April 2007	1,270,097	1,193,589	76,508	—
May 2007	1,494,634	1,433,620	61,014	—
June 2007	1,385,229	1,303,400	81,829	—
July 2007	1,503,454	1,367,340	136,114	—
August 2007	1,810,741	1,662,161	148,580	—
September 2007	1,468,596	1,370,874	97,722	—
October 2007	1,370,292	1,306,836	63,456	—
December 2007	855,633	802,032	53,601	—
January 2008	1,998,319	1,872,925	125,394	—
February 2008	1,450,419	1,383,025	67,394	—
March 2008	1,357,724	1,125,320	232,404	—
April2008	1,373,527	1,258,862	114,665	—
May 2008	1,599,042	1,482,936	116,106	—
June 2008	1,558,995	1,195,905	363,090	—
July 2008	1,881,447	1,622,186	259,261	00:01:30
August 2008	1,392,754	1,304,201	88,553	00:01:17
September 2008	1,514,106	1,360,135	153,971	00:01:45
October 2008	1,933,292	1,729,172	204,120	00:01:40
November 2008	1,732,641	1,404,725	327,916	00:02:52
December 2008	940,345	845,350	94,995	00:01:58
January 2009	2,301,754	2,068,444	233,310	00:01:46
February 2009	1,768,980	1,603,397	165,583	00:01:32
March 2009	1,641,803	1,550,319	91,484	00:01:17

Note:

Data on average speed of answer are only available since July 2008, following the introduction of virtual telephony platform which enabled this information to be recorded.

Annual totals from 2004

	Calls offered	*Calls answered*	*Calls not answered*
2004-05	14,910,760	12,108,721	2,802,039
2005-06	18,257,052	15,956,298	2,300,754

Annual totals from 2004

	Calls offered	Calls answered	Calls not answered
2006-07	18,848,944	17,954,117	894,827
2007-08	17,587,392	16,341,493	1,245,899
2008-09	19,638,686	17,425,632	2,213,054

Note:
Data are only available since the creation of Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre Directorate in 2004.

Monthly totals since virtual telephony platform complete July 2008

	Calls offered	Calls answered	Calls not answered	Average speed of answer
July 2008	1,881,447	1,622,186	259,261	00:01:30
August 2008	1,392,754	1,304,201	88,553	00:01:17
September 2008	1,514,106	1,360,135	153,971	00:01:45
October 2008	1,933,292	1,729,172	204,120	00:01:40
November 2008	1,732,641	1,404,725	327,916	00:02:52
December 2008	940,345	845,350	94,995	00:01:58
January 2009	2,301,754	2,068,444	233,310	00:01:46
February 2009	1,768,980	1,603,397	165,583	00:01:32
March 2009	1,641,803	1,550,319	91,484	00:01:17

Jobcentre Plus: Vacancies

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time, *(c)* permanent and *(d)* temporary vacancies were (i) registered by employers with Jobcentre Plus and (ii) subsequently filled in each (A) region and (B) Jobcentre Plus district in (1) in each year since 2002 and (2) each of the last 24 months. [264265]

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time job vacancies for (i) temporary and (ii) permanent positions were advertised through Jobcentre Plus in (A) each year since 1997 and (B) each month in the last two years. [271693]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of permanent and temporary vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus is not available. Information on the number of full-time and part-time vacancies notified with Jobcentre Plus is available from April 2004 and has been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of vacancies registered with Jobcentre Plus and subsequently filled in each region and Jobcentre Plus district in each year since 2002 and each of the last 24 months is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the percentage change in the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Wellingborough constituency and *(b)* the UK was in the last 12 months. [273798]

Mr. McNulty: The latest information available is shown in the following table.

Percentage change for jobseeker's allowance claimants: Wellingborough parliamentary constituency and the UK, March 2008 and March 2009

	Wellingborough parliamentary constituency	United Kingdom
March 2008 (number)	1,447	842,827
March 2009 (number)	3,239	1,523,482
Percentage change in year	123.8	80.8

Notes:
1. Percentage change is calculated between March 2008 and March 2009.
2: The claimant count data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. Figures include clerically held cases.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people over 25 years old have not been referred to the New Deal 25 plus or Employment Zones upon reaching 18 months as a claimant as a result of *(a)* capacity and *(b)* budgetary constraints; [271692]

(2) how many people aged 18 to 24 years old upon reaching six months of a Jobseeker's Allowance claim have not been referred to the New Deal for Young People or Employment Zones as a result of *(a)* capacity and *(b)* budgetary constraints. [271720]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available as it is not collected on Department for Work and Pensions' databases.

However, Jobcentre Plus performance in delivering New Deal and Employment Zone referral interviews is measured as part of an Interventions Delivery Target. The latest performance figures (up to November 2008) show that 91.8 per cent. checked, JSA-related adviser interviews, which include the initial New Deal/Employment

Zone referral interview, were undertaken within the required timescale. This is against a target of 90 per cent. Therefore there is no reason to believe customers are not being referred to New Deal and Employment Zones at the appropriate time.

Social Security Benefits

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 5 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 62-63W, on social security benefits, when she plans to place the information on benefit rates in the Library; and for what reason the information has not yet been placed there. [275663]

Jonathan Shaw: It was intended that the information on benefit rates would be deposited in the Library on 5 May 2009 but in fact it was not deposited until a week later, on 12 May 2009. The delay was due to an administrative oversight, for which I apologise.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget for her Department's 'We're closing in' campaign is; and how much her Department has spent on the element of the campaign conducted in Alicante. [277048]

Jim Knight: In 2008-09, expenditure for the 'We're closing in' campaign was £5.8 million. Out of this amount, we spent £46,000 on communications in Spain which were designed to raise awareness of the new hotline in Alicante.

Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how long her Department retains records of claimants who have ceased claiming each benefit; and on how many occasions a local authority has requested information on a benefit claimant for which his Department no longer holds records since 1997. [275110]

Jim Knight: The Department has a comprehensive document and data retention policy that is detailed in the Benefits Document and Data Retention Guide (Benefits DDRG). A copy of the Benefits DDRG has been placed in the Library.

In general, documents are retained for 14 months from the date a claim ceases. There are exceptions to this across all benefits, details of which can be found in the DDRG. One specific exception is where there is a housing benefit or council tax benefit interest, in which case records will be kept for six years.

Information on how many occasions a local authority has requested information on a benefit claimant for which the Department no longer holds records since 1997 is not available.

Unemployment

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to reduce unemployment levels amongst low-skilled people. [275880]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 May 2009]:* The UK Government have made a commitment to develop and deliver a fully Integrated Employment and Skills (IES) system in England by 2010-11. This new integrated service will bring together and reform existing employment and skills services to better help jobseekers get the right balance of job search and training to help them into sustained employment and to progress in their career and, in particular, to help those with basic and employability skills to engage with the labour market and get, keep and progress in a job.

Under the auspices of this service:

Claimants will receive personalised support from a Jobcentre Plus adviser who will work with customers to identify the steps appropriate to enable a swift return to work, including referral to careers advice or skills training where appropriate.

Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers are able to agree early access to the job search and training support offered by the New Deal for people whose circumstances may make it particularly hard to find work. The introduction of the Flexible New Deal will establish a new, individually-tailored approach for all job seekers, whatever their age, skills or barriers to work.

The Employability Skills Programme (ESP) enables people in England to train full-time from day one of a jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claim where there are both basic and employability skills needs.

Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs) ensure that disadvantaged customers get the preparation and training that enables them to meet employers' needs with the expectation that, in return, employers with vacancies give them a fair shot at getting a job.

We are working jointly with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Learning and Skills Council to ensure that when people move into work they continue learning through apprenticeships or Train to Gain. This will enable them to remain in work and continue to progress.

In addition, in response to the current economic downturn, the Government have announced that:

Funding of £158 million has been made available through the European Social Fund for the Learning and Skills Council's Train to Gain programme for people who are newly unemployed or facing redundancy to undertake training linked to opportunities in the local labour market.

From April 2009 LEPs have been made available to all claimants from day one of unemployment.

On 6 April we launched a significant package of help for jobseekers, including those with lower level skills, who find themselves out of work for six months or more. This support includes, amongst other things, access to 75,000 new work-focused training opportunities to help customers significantly increase their skills in order to enter work. The training, delivered on a part-time or full-time basis, will support people in progressing towards a full qualification.

We have removed barriers to full-time training making it easier for long-term unemployed people to get access to new skills in order to compete for the local jobs on offer. The Government have put the funding arrangements in place to enable jobseekers at the six-month point in their claim to move to a training allowance in order to benefit from full-time intensive training of up to eight weeks, designed to meet employers' needs.

The Budget 2009 announced a guaranteed offer of a job, work-focused training, or meaningful activity to all 18 to 24-year-olds as they approach the 12-month stage of their claim to jobseekers allowance (JSA).

Vocational Training

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to assist unemployed people aged over 55 into work. [272485]

Jim Knight: The Government already provide back-to-work support for those wishing to re-enter the labour market, including those aged 50 and over, through Jobcentre Plus, local employer partnerships, the new deal and pathways to work. We intend to extend this as detailed in the Welfare Reform Bill.

However, in response to the current economic downturn the Government have already committed £0.5 billion of additional support to help prevent people out of work from becoming long-term unemployed.

We have doubled the resources available to the Rapid Response Service. The service offers support across the country for those people facing redundancy with immediate help and advice, including skills assessments and retraining, to ensure that people get back to work as soon as possible.

Since April, financial incentives of up to £2,500 have been available to employers that recruit and train people who have been unemployed for six months or longer.

We have also introduced extra funding for training places to help unemployed people learn new skills to maximise their chances of getting jobs from the 455,000 unfilled vacancies in the three months to April 2009. In addition there are opportunities to volunteer, to help people back into work habits, and help to start a business, with advice on creating a business plan plus funding for the first months of trading.

A major factor in the employment of older people is employer behaviour. In addition to providing generic good practice guidance to employers, the UK's Age Positive initiative is working in partnership with business leaders to develop sector-based models of flexible retirement to support the increased employment and retention of older workers and the removal of fixed retirement ages.

Our plans for the future include providing guidance to older workers on their options for working longer, encouraging employers to increase flexible work and phased retirement opportunities, a review of the Default Retirement Age in 2011—if it is found to be no longer needed it will be removed—monitoring the impact of the economic downturn to identify which groups are being most affected and targeting further help where it is most needed.

Welfare Reform Bill

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much is planned to be spent on drug treatment centres for rehabilitation provision arising under the provisions of the Welfare Reform Bill. [275405]

Jim Knight: The investment in drug treatment to support the drugs pilots will be met from within existing allocations.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether medical professionals will be employed by Jobcentre Plus to deal with claimants with drug-related problems following the implementation of the provision of the Welfare Reform Bill. [275423]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 14 May 2009]:* Medical professionals will not be employed by Jobcentre Plus as part of the implementation of the new pilot regime for problem drug users in the Welfare Reform Bill. Substance-related assessments will be carried out locally by drug treatment specialists.

Welfare to Work: Standards

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will publish the results of the gap analysis in welfare-to-work provision undertaken by her Department. [271691]

Jim Knight: We have expanded significantly the support available to unemployed people. As part of putting that provision in place Jobcentre Plus reviewed any current or anticipated supplier issues.

That snapshot covered information that must be treated 'Commercial in Confidence' and was the basis for detailed discussions with contractors to ensure that effective provision is in place.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer question 274723, tabled on 12 May 2009, on child maintenance. [278037]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 4 June 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 537W.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on UK-Icelandic relations of the use of powers under the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 to freeze assets of Icelandic banks; and if he will make a statement. [276936]

Chris Bryant: I have been asked to reply.

We believe that it was right to take urgent action, using the statutory means available, to protect financial stability in the UK following the Icelandic banking collapse. It is very welcome therefore that agreement was reached on 5 June 2009 between the governments of Iceland, the Netherlands and the UK on the terms of bilateral loans that protect UK interests and are affordable for Iceland. This is a good agreement for all parties and opens the way to lift the Landsbanki freezing order.

Individual Savings Accounts

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to establish enforceable limits on the time taken to transfer cash ISAs between providers. [279048]

Ian Pearson: HM Revenue and Customs rules allow the existing ISA manager a maximum of 30 days to respond to the new manager's request and complete the transfer. HMRC published the results of a cross-industry working group on ISA transfers in their ISA bulletin of 26 August 2008, including guidelines to speed up the transfer of cash ISAs between providers and to improve the efficiency of the process.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 28 April 2009, on fuel tax PO Ref: 1/71584/2009. [279439]

Kitty Ussher: I have replied to the hon. Member.

TRANSPORT

A47: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Minster of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal accidents there were on the A47 between Guyhirn and the Thorney bypass in each of the last 10 years. [278710]

Chris Mole: The following table provides the number of *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal accidents on the A47 between Guyhirn and the Thorney Bypass from 1999 to 2008.

	Number of fatal accidents	*Number of non-fatal accidents*
1999	2	17
2000	1	25
2001	2	23
2002	1	32
2003	0	24
2004	1	32
2005	2	21
2006	0	31
2007	1	27
2008[1]	0	20

[1] Data not yet validated by Department for Transport.

Aviation

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with the National Air Traffic Service on the merits of stacking flights over the sea; [278264]

(2) what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with the Civil Aviation Authority on the feasibility of stacking flights landing at UK airports over the sea. [278287]

Paul Clark: Airspace planning and regulation is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The process for making changes to airspace is governed by the CAA's airspace change process. Under this process it is for airspace change sponsors, mostly NATS, other air navigation services providers and airports, to develop and consult upon proposals. Detailed guidance is given on what impacts are to be taken into account, advice on methods to assess the relative impact of changes and who should be consulted. Informed by the consultation, the airspace change sponsor submits the proposal to the CAA's directorate of airspace policy for assessment against regulatory requirements. In determining whether to accept or reject a proposal, the CAA's process reflects the Secretary of State's Directions and Guidance to the CAA on the exercise of its statutory duties and environmental objectives. Detailed information is available on the CAA's website at:

www.caa.co.uk

As part of NATS' on-going development of proposed changes to the area of airspace known as terminal control north, they are considering the location of, and procedures for arrivals routes and holds for Luton, Stansted and London City airports. Further details are available at:

http://www.nats.co.uk/article/216/259/latest_update_on_tcn_consultation.html

No airspace change proposal has been submitted to the CAA.

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what recent progress has been made in the development of a universal consumer protection scheme for air travellers; and if he will make a statement; [279527]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provisions for the protection of passengers affected by the sudden financial collapse of an airline; [279528]

(3) with reference to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 289W, on the XL Leisure Group, what steps have been taken to improve the experience of passengers in future airline or tour operator failures. [279572]

Paul Clark: The Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL) scheme organised by the Civil Aviation Authority fully protects passengers on package holidays if their airline, or other travel company, become insolvent.

Passengers not on package holidays have two main options by which they can help protect themselves against airline insolvency if they so choose:

(i) purchasing tickets by credit card, which in most cases will provide at least refund of any ticket that cannot be used;

(ii) purchasing insurance against airline failure (available free-standing product or as part of some travel insurance policies).

The Department for Transport recognises the complexity for consumers of airline insolvency protection arrangements. To help address this, we have placed guidance for holiday makers about the options available on the Directgov website

www.direct.gov.uk/holidayprotection

This guidance was prepared in conjunction with the air transport industry and the Civil Aviation Authority. It is supplemented with an information campaign which has generated press articles.

The Department is now considering options for the reform of ATOL with a view to providing greater protection and clarity to consumers about what holidays are or are not covered by the scheme. A consultation is planned for later in 2009.

The Government have no plans to provide statutory financial protection for all flights. They carefully considered an option to this effect in 2005, but rejected it as being disproportionate to the risks faced by consumers.

Bus Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many route miles of bus service were provided in England in each year since 1997; [278629]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* average cost to a passenger of a single bus journey and *(b)* average length of a bus journey in miles in each year since 1997. [278630]

Mr. Khan: Information on bus route mileage would be available only at disproportionate cost. Estimates of vehicle kilometres operated on local bus services for the years requested are available in Table A.

Table A: Local bus vehicle kilometres: England, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Kilometres (million)
1997-98	2,142
1998-99	2,165
1999-2000	2,183
2000-01	2,158
2001-02	2,129
2002-03	2,122
2003-04	2,109
2004-05	2,109
2005-06	2,096
2006-07	2,190
2007-08	2,286

Source:
Table C, Public Transport Statistics Bulletin GB: 2008 edition

The information on the average cost to a passenger of a single bus journey is not available, but estimates of the annual change in bus fares are shown in Table B.

Table B: Local bus fares index: England, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Local bus fares index at constant prices[1]		*Local bus fares index at current prices*	
	Index (1995 = 100)	*Year on year change (percentage)*	*Index (1995 = 100)*	*Year on year change (percentage)*
1997-98	104.7		111.5	
1998-99	106.0	1.2	116.4	4.4
1999-2000	108.8	2.7	121.4	4.3
2000-01	109.4	0.6	125.8	3.6
2001-02	111.7	2.2	130.3	3.6
2002-03	112.8	0.9	134.3	3.1
2003-04	113.9	1.0	139.4	3.8
2004-05	116.6	2.4	147.2	5.6
2005-06	123.0	5.5	159.4	8.3
2006-07	119.1	-3.2	160.1	0.4
2007-08	120.8	1.4	169.1	5.6

[1] Adjusted for general inflation using the Retail Prices Index based on values as at 1 January.
Source:
Table G, Public Transport Statistics Bulletin GB

During the period covered by Table B, the introduction of the statutory concessionary travel scheme has meant that many passengers now travel for free on local buses.

Information on the average length of bus stage can be found in Table C.

Table C: Average bus stage length: England, 1996-98 to 2006

	Miles
1996-98	3.5
1997-99	3.6
1998-1000	3.7
1999-01	3.8
2002	3.9
2003	3.9
2004	3.7
2005	3.9
2006	4.0

Source:
National Travel Survey

The sample size for the National Travel Survey was nearly trebled from 2002 compared with previous years enabling results to be presented on a single year basis. Previously data were shown for three-year time periods because of the smaller sample size.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278825]

Chris Mole: Information on the proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt for the Department for Transport and its agencies (save for data for the Vehicle and Certification Agency) is only available from January 2009.

The figures from January 2009 are set out in the table:

Department/agency	*January 2009*	*February 2009*	*March 2009*	*April 2009*	*May 2009*
DfT Central Department	36.88	43.13	51.86	64.85	74.58
Driving Standards Agency	35.91	49.64	53.60	67.24	67.67
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	31.57	31.06	28.55	75.15	81.41

Department/agency	*January 2009*	*February 2009*	*March 2009*	*April 2009*	*May 2009*
Highways Agency	75.16	79.75	73.18	26.15	79.73
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	92.53	93.80	95.23	94.60	92.69
Vehicle Certification Agency	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	80.20	86.98	87.71	91.82	92.61
Government Car and Despatch Agency	43.01	32.13	52.75	29.74	59.20
Average	61.19	65.42	67.06	56.88	80.32

[1] No data

Note:

Figures exclude VCA data.

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278749]

Chris Mole: Under the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008, the Department for Transport is required to give a summary report on data breaches reported to the Information Commissioner in our annual resource accounts.

The Department for Transport has reported on personal data breaches in the 2007-2008 annual resource account and this can be found at:

> http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/ei/secresaccs/resourceaccounts0708.pdf.

We will be publishing information on personal data security breaches reported to the Information Commissioner for the 2008-09 reporting year before Parliament rises in July. The information is currently being compiled and is to be audited and verified before it is laid before Parliament.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many candidates of each sex and age group *(a)* took and *(b)* passed the motorcycle driving test in each month since October 2008. [278650]

Paul Clark: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Driving: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many complaints were received by *(a)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority and *(b)* his Department about the processing of driving licence applications in each year since 1997. [278657]

Paul Clark: The number of complaints received by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in relation to driving licences for each financial year was:

	Number
2008-09	1,208
2007-08	1,101
2006-07	959
2005-06	667
2004-05	812
2003-04	1,028
2002-03	684
2001-02	553

Data for years prior to 2001 are not available. Complaints received by the Department for Transport are forwarded to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and these are included in the above figures. These volumes are not stored.

Driving: Working Hours

Alistair Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had at EU level on proposals to extend the application of the European Regulation on drivers' hours to drivers of vehicles not exceeding 3.5 tonnes. [278679]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has had no discussions at EU level on any proposals to extend the EU drivers' hours rules to drivers of vehicles not exceeding 3.5 tonnes, since the negotiations on Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 were completed.

Electric Vehicles

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of electric vans and light commercial vehicles in use on public roads; and what plans he has to facilitate greater usage of vehicles. [278760]

Mr. Khan: The number of electric light goods vehicles registered in Great Britain as at 31 December 2008 was 4,149.

The Government have a number of policies in place to facilitate greater use of electric vehicles. Electric cars and vans are exempt from vehicle excise duty and fuel duty. Businesses which purchase electric and low carbon cars can claim enhanced capital allowances and people who use electric cars as their company car pay the lowest rate of benefit in kind.

In addition to these fiscal measures the Government recently announced a £250 million scheme to support the purchase of electric and plug-in hybrid electric cars.

This scheme will take effect from 2011 onwards and will help reduce the price of these cars to consumers by £2 to 5,000. The Department for Transport's low carbon vehicle procurement programme is also supporting the demonstration of low carbon and all-electric vans in the public sector and the winners of the procurement exercise for this project will be announced shortly.

Highways Agency: Collective Bargaining

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether all staff working in the Highways Agency are covered by collective bargaining arrangements. [279530]

Chris Mole: All staff for whom the Highways Agency has delegated pay responsibility (staff below senior civil service) are covered by collective bargaining arrangements. The Highways Agency seeks to reach agreement with the unions through collective bargaining and does not have a policy of persuading, encouraging or trying to get staff to opt out of collective bargaining. In relation to the Highways Agency's 2008 pay offer, agreement with the unions was not possible and internal bargaining mechanisms had been exhausted. The Highways Agency invited individual members of senior staff below the senior civil service (HA Grades PB8/PB7/TM3), to voluntarily opt in to new reward and performance management arrangements. These staff remain covered by collective bargaining arrangements.

Level Crossings: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on hearing-impaired people and safety at level crossings on railways; what research his Department has, *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on safety at railway level crossings for hearing-impaired people; and if he will make a statement. [278762]

Chris Mole: No direct representations on this subject have been made to the Secretary of State for Transport recently. However, we are aware of the concerns of disabled people with the operation of level crossings, through regular liaison with the disabled persons transport advisory committee: the Government's statutory advisors on the transport needs of disabled people, which includes representatives of people with impaired hearing.

As part of their £10 million annual research programme, funded by the Department for Transport, the Rail Safety and Standards Board will shortly be commissioning a research project into this subject, entitled "T650-Improving safety and accessibility at level crossings for disabled pedestrians".

Network Rail is currently planning for the next generation of level crossing designs and the Rail Safety and Standards Board's research, which should report in 2010, aims to find out what specific facilities for disabled pedestrians should be included in order to improve accessibility and reduce risk. The disabled persons transport advisory committee was involved in establishing the scope of this project, and they, and other groups, will be involved as the work is taken forward.

Lorries: Vetting

Chris Grayling: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many drivers of heavy goods vehicles carrying hazardous liquid fuels have been security vetted in each of the last three years; what the nationalities were of such drivers; and how many such drivers were not given security clearance. [278288]

Paul Clark: The Government do not mandate national security vetting background checks for drivers of heavy goods vehicles and the data requested are therefore not available. However, the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations, in line with EC requirements, set out a range of physical and personnel security measures designed to protect vehicles carrying dangerous goods, and their loads, from potential terrorist threats. These regulations are supported by detailed guidance to industry, including advice on pre-employment checks of drivers and other categories of staff who may potentially pose a risk. On the basis of this guidance companies develop and deliver their own personnel security regimes to manage the risks to their businesses.

Following Stephen Boys Smith's review of personnel security in the transport sector, the Department for Transport is working with industry to review existing personnel security regimes to ensure they remain proportionate to the threat.

M25

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date each cost increase for the M25 design, build, finance and operate widening project was approved by Ministers. [278624]

Chris Mole: Ministers approved an increase in the cost of the two widening schemes (between junctions 16 and 23, and between junctions 27 and 30) that form part of the M25 Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) Contract, on 27 July 2007.

Ministers approved a maximum expected cost of the M25 DBFO Contract itself on 1 April 2009. The contract was awarded within this figure on 20 May 2009.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Roads plans to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 8 May 2009, about shared surface, Ref: JF/PC/012668/09. [279438]

Mr. Khan: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State replied to the hon. Member in a letter dated 18 May 2009.

Railways: Bus Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the decision by South West Trains to cancel the Bordon-Liphook rail link bus; and if he will make a statement. [278651]

Chris Mole: The Rail Link bus service between Liphook and Bordon is not a commitment within the South West Trains Franchise Agreement and Stagecoach South West Trains are therefore under no obligation to continue to provide this facility.

As such, no assessment has been made due to this being a commercial decision to be managed by Stagecoach South West Trains.

Road Signs and Markings

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of installing overhead line warning signs on roads for which the Highways Agency is responsible in each of the last three years; and how many such signs have been installed; [278813]

(2) how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* other incidents involving vehicles hitting overhead lines on roads for which the Highways Agency is responsible have been reported in each of the last 10 years; and how many such incidents have involved the emergency services; [278814]

(3) on what date the decision was taken to install overhead line warning signs on roads for which the Highways Agency is responsible; who took the decision; and what cost-benefit analysis of installing overhead line warning signs was undertaken. [278815]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* The estimate of cost to the public purse of installing overhead line warning signs on roads for which the Highways Agency is responsible is shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	Cost estimate (£)	*Number of signs installed*
2008-09	116,770	1,579
2007-08	31,500	960
2006-07	0	0

The number of accidents and other incidents involving vehicles hitting overhead lines on Highways Agency roads over the last 10 years is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

	Number of accidents	*Number of other incidents*	*Emergency services involved?*
2008/09	0	2	Yes
		1 near miss	No
2007/08[1]	0	0	n/a
2006/07[1]	0	1	Yes
2005/06[1]	0	0	n/a
2004/05[1]	0	0	n/a
2003/04[1]	0	0	n/a
2002/03[1]	0	0	n/a
2001/02[1]	2 fatalities	1	Yes
2000/01[1]	0	0	n/a
1999/2000[1]	0	0	n/a

[1] Data not available from all regions and cited figure denotes value derived from incomplete or unavailable data

There was no decision of general policy taken to install overhead line warning signs on Highways Agency roads.

Overhead line warning signs were first installed in the north-east region in two stages. The first phase on the southern part of that area of the Highways Agency network was approved in 2005-06 and the second phase for the remainder of the north-east network in 2007-08. Approval was given by the Highways Agency's regional director.

Decisions to install overhead line warning signs are made regionally, based on technical assessment and need.

The initiative in the north-east was introduced in response to a fatal accident that occurred on a construction site on the A66 in 2002 when two construction operatives were killed, having come into contact with an overhead power cable while working on a lighting gantry.

A detailed cost benefit analysis for the installation of overhead warning signs has not been undertaken.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many victims of hit-and-run incidents have *(a)* claimed and *(b)* obtained compensation from the Motor Insurers Bureau in each year since 1997. [278572]

Paul Clark: No official statistics are gathered which address this question directly.

Claims made to the Motor Insurers Bureau under the Untraced Drivers Agreement are not restricted to hit and run incidents but can be made in respect of any incident where the identity of the driver is not known.

The Motor Insurers Bureau estimates that the number of claims made in the past four years under the Untraced Drivers Agreement is as follows:

	Number
2005	15,862
2006	16,242
2007	15,227
2008	15,096

The number of claims that have been settled in the past four years is as follows:

	Number
2005	13,336
2006	15,137
2007	15,382
2008	15,254

These figures relate to the year in which the claim was finally settled, not to the date of the claim. Claims are not necessarily settled in the calendar year in which the claim is made.

Transport: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to improve *(a)* rail transport links and *(b)* other elements of transport infrastructure in Coventry. [278610]

Mr. Khan: The Government have invested in long-term public transport improvements in and around Coventry. Funding provided to local authorities in the West Midlands conurbation, including Coventry, for local transport capital projects has increased from £22 million in 2000-01 to over £51 million in 2009-10.

Coventry has benefited from the £8.8 billion investment in the West Coast Main Line upgrade. Since December 2008, Coventry rail users have seen an improved frequency of intercity services from Birmingham to London from two to three per hour and an increase in rail services from Birmingham to Northampton from one to two trains per hour. Coventry is now served by seven trains per hour to Birmingham.

With regard to other transport infrastructure in and around Coventry, we have invested over £28 million in the Coventry Primelines Bus Network scheme, a package of improvements aimed at improving bus travel in Coventry. Coventry is also benefiting from over £50 million of investment across the West Midlands conurbation in upgrading the Urban Traffic Control Centre and the first phase of the Red Routes network.

Transport: East of England

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; [278583]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated for the development of environmentally-friendly means of transportation in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; [278584]

(3) how much funding his Department allocated to transport networks used primarily for tourism in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997; [278586]

(4) how much funding his Department allocated for transport connections with nature parks in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England region in each year since 1997. [278587]

Mr. Khan: Funding provided by the Department for Transport (DfT) to local transport authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Figures are not available at constituency level.

The Department provides integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities to support capital investment in transport, which may be used for a range of purposes as the authorities see fit. Allocations provided to Bedfordshire county council and the eastern region, since 1997, are shown in the following table.

		(£ millions)
	Bedfordshire	*Eastern Region*
2008-09	9.286	157.771
2007-08	7.751	159.476
2006-07	9.573	157.826
2005-06	9.351	156.899
2004-05	8.001	156.586
2003-04	7.364	141.735
2002-03	6.591	140.193
2001-02	7.147	137.774
2000-01	4.017	56.608
1999-2000	4.602	52.125
1998-99	3.070	32.150
1997-98	3.692	41.203

Note:
Since 2000 the allocations comprise integrated transport block grant and highways maintenance. Prior to 2000 the allocations are in the form of gross approved spending.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

In addition to this funding, DfT has made some funding available specifically to support cycling. In 2007-08 and 2008-09, DfT provided £6,720 and £32,000 respectively to Bedfordshire county council to fund cycling training. In 2009-10, following the local authority boundary changes, Bedford borough are due to receive £28,000, and central Bedfordshire £35,240 to fund 700 and 881 training places respectively.

Transport: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage bicycle usage in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997; [278898]

(2) how much funding his Department allocated for transport connections with nature parks in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997; [278899]

(3) how much funding his Department allocated to transport networks used primarily for tourism in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997; [278900]

(4) how much funding his Department allocated for the development of environmentally-friendly means of transportation in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997. [278902]

Mr. Khan: Funding provided by the Department for Transport (DFT) to local transport authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Figures are not available at constituency level.

The Department provides integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities to support capital investment in transport, which may be used for a range of purposes as the authorities see fit. Crosby falls into the transport authority of Sefton metropolitan borough council. The allocations provided to Sefton metropolitan borough council and Merseyside as a whole, since 1997, are shown in the table.

		£ million
	Sefton	*Merseyside*
2008-09	5,029	45,941
2007-08	4,244	46,532
2006-07	4,302	43,286
2005-06	4,095	49,454
2004-05	5,345	60,208

	Sefton	£ million Merseyside
2003-04	9,785	61,298
2002-03	7,357	47,395
2001-02	5,136	45,164
2000-01	2,847	22,967
1999-00	—	24,946
1998-99	—	20,063
1997-98	—	21,313

Note:
Since 2000 the allocations comprise integrated transport block grant and highways maintenance. Prior to 2000 the allocations are in the form of gross approved spending.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

In addition to this funding, DFT has made some funding available specifically to support cycling. In 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 DFT provided £250,000, £346,000 and £440,000 respectively to Merseyside to fund cycling training. In total Merseyside received £1,036,000 in grants, which will fund 25,900 cycle training places between 2007 and 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in controlling the spread of bovine tuberculosis among cattle. [278777]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* Since November 2008 DEFRA has been working alongside representatives of the farming industry and the veterinary profession as part of the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England. The Group is examining a range of policies and will make recommendations to the Secretary of State on establishing a programme which will enable Government and the industry to move towards eventual eradication of the disease in this country.

Bovine TB is a complex and chronic disease and, in addition to the long-standing and vital cattle control measures in place, we have implemented a wide-ranging programme of research. This includes work on improving diagnosis, gaining a better understanding of how the disease is spread and pursuing the future use of vaccination of cattle and wildlife, through vaccine research, and the development of a badger vaccine deployment project.

Council for the Protection of Rural England

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Council for the Protection of Rural England on its Keep Britain Tidy Day initiative; and if he will make a statement. [278290]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In April 2008 the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) launched their three-year, anti-litter and fly tipping campaign in England's countryside—'Stop The Drop'. The Government welcome this contribution to raising awareness of litter issues. CPRE has worked closely with DEFRA's grant-aided delivery partner, Keep Britain Tidy, to help expand its activities and collaborate on the Big Tidy Up campaign encouraging communities and individuals to get involved, and take an interest, in improving their neighbourhood.

CPRE officials have met DEFRA Ministers and officials on several occasions in the last few months.

Dairy Farming: Finance

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated for the support of dairy farmers in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England in each year since 1997. [278588]

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated for the support of dairy farmers in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279328]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Unfortunately, the data required to provide dairy farmers' funding information by region and for earlier years are not held in a form that is easily accessible. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dairy Farming: Government Assistance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assist dairy farmers during the economic downturn. [278322]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are helping the dairy industry help itself adjust to some of the challenges it faces, for example through the Dairy Supply Chain Forum. The forum is engaged in an extensive programme of work, looking at issues including barriers to innovation, supply and demand, as well as efficiency at farm level.

The future prospects for the dairy industry are encouraging, and growth in global demand is expected to return. The UK is well placed to take advantage of this. The British dairy sector is fundamentally sound and the efficiency improvements, innovation and investment in new products mean that in the medium to long term, the sector can do very well.

Dairy Farming: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department allocated for the support of dairy farmers in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997. [278905]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The data required to provide dairy farmers' funding information by region and for earlier years are not held in a form that is easily accessible. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dairy Products

Dr. Strang: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of *(a)* liquid milk, *(b)* butter and *(c)* cheese was (i) produced in and (ii) consumed in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [277296]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 June 2009]:* The volume of drinking milk, butter and cheese produced in the UK and the volume available for consumption in the UK is shown in the following table.

	Liquid drinking milk		*Butter*		*Cheese*	
	Production (million litres)	*Available for consumption (million litres)*	*Production (thousand tonnes)*	*Available for consumption (thousand tonnes)*	*Production (thousand tonnes)*	*Available for consumption (thousand tonnes)*
1998	6,768	6,800	137	177	367	569
1999	6,889	6,820	141	192	370	586
2000	6,793	6,759	132	201	341	538
2001	6,748	6,775	126	200	395	601
2002	6,825	6,806	136	209	371	574
2003	6,753	6,597	131	207	351	577
2004	6,693	6,497	122	208	359	600
2005	6,652	6,213	130	219	391	648
2006	6,736	6,309	117	226	400	674
2007	6,724	6,388	120	195	378	684
2008	6,722	6,468	113	171	378	697

Source:
Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2008, DEFRA.

Litter

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect on *(a)* street cleanliness, *(b)* the welfare of wildlife and *(c)* the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour of levels of littering. [278292]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA funds Keep Britain Tidy (formerly known as ENCAMS) to carry out the annual Local Environment Quality Survey of England which looks at 32 local environmental quality issues, including the most commonly found items of litter discarded on the street and general cleanliness. The results for the seventh survey were published in March 2009 and are available on the Keep Britain Tidy website at

www.keepbritaintidy.org

Litter can be harmful to wildlife and some studies have suggested a link between high levels of litter and crime. DEFRA has made no separate assessment of the effects of litter on wildlife or on the incidence of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Livestock: Finance

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated for the support of livestock farmers in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279329]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Unfortunately, the data required to provide livestock farmers' funding information by region and for earlier years are not held in a form that is easily accessible. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the Government Office for London's performance in implementing the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative. [278694]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government office for London, as well as all of the other Government offices, has co-ordinated the implementation of several projects to support the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI) since its inception in 2003. In London the projects have ranged from: events and workshops for caterers, chefs and food buyers; guidance and promotional material; one-to-one support for individual London boroughs; to a project in 2008-09 focusing on researching the opportunities to expand the reach of PSFPI in London. Progress reports on the PSFPI projects carried out by the Government offices can be found on the DEFRA website.

In addition, an independent evaluation completed in March found that the PSFPI has had a positive impact on public sector food procurement. Evidence of this success is presented in the report. The report also made a number of recommendations on how performance could be improved and we are considering how to take these forward. A copy of the evaluation is on the DEFRA website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cabinet: Glasgow

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* officials accompanied her to Glasgow for the Cabinet meeting on 16 April 2009. [273917]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The then Secretary of State was accompanied by a special adviser. For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April 2009 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what car journeys she took in attending the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273918]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The then Secretary of State took the following car journeys:

(1) From her hotel in the city centre to FARE (Family Action in Rogerfield and Easterhouse) in Easterhouse, including a guided car tour of Easterhouse and Rogerfield

(2) From FARE to the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) where the Cabinet meeting was held.

(3) From the SECC to Glasgow Central train station.

For information relating to the Cabinet and public engagement event held in Glasgow on 16 April I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 3 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 487W.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much expenditure was incurred by her Department in respect of the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273919]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The expenditure incurred was £871.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* food (i) she and (ii) officials in her Department incurred in connection with the Cabinet meeting in Glasgow on 16 April 2009. [273920]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

(i) The costs incurred for the then Secretary of State's visit to Glasgow were:

(a) travel—£497

(b) accommodation—£78

(c) no additional costs were claimed for food.

(ii) The costs incurred for her special adviser were:

(a) travel—£218

(b) accommodation—£78

(c) no additional costs were claimed for food.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of invoices his Department and its agencies paid within 10 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [278822]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number and proportion of invoices paid by CLG and its agencies within 10 days in each of the months since these data have been collected against the 10-day target is as follows:

Month	*Number of invoices paid within 10 days*	*Percentage of invoices received which were paid within 10 days*
November 2008	3,442	77.89
December 2008	3,248	85.23
January 2009	4,935	86.22
February 2009	4,997	88.11
March 2009	6,638	88.33
April 2009	4,515	83.55
May 2009	3,876	91.83

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many notifications his Department made to the Information Commissioner in the year ended 30 April 2009 in respect of the loss or mishandling of personal information or data; what was notified in each such case; and how many individuals were the subjects of personal information or data in respect of which such notifications were made. [278753]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No such notifications have been made by the Department for Communities and Local Government in the 12 months to 30 April 2009.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278754]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No officials in CLG, or its agencies, have been either disciplined or dismissed for breaches of data protection or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months.

European Regional Development Fund

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 18 of the Government response to the Communities and Local Government Committee's Report on the Department for Communities and Local Government's Annual Report 2008, Cm. 7614, if he will place in the Library a copy of the comprehensive ERDF User Manual. [279802]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I will arrange for the ERDF User Manual to be placed in the Library.

Food: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the Government Office for London's performance in meeting its objectives in relation to the London Food Strategy. [278976]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As the London Food Strategy is owned by the Mayor of London, it is for the Mayor to assess progress on the priority objectives.

Government Office for London: Pay

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in bonuses to *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff at the Government Office for London in each year from 2001-02 to 2008-09. [278697]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The tables set out the total performance bonuses paid to GOL staff from 2004-05. Information broken down as requested is not available prior to 2004-05 because of a change in the Government office network accounting system.

GOL bonus data—amounts payable

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Directors and deputy directors (senior managers)	32,824	35,843	56,239	90,579	52,300
Specialists	1,675	1,100	2,269	4,250	3,557
All other staff	85,472	96,160	121,383	141,776	120,641
Total for year	119,971	133,103	179,891	236,605	176,498

GOL bonus data—staff in receipt of a bonus

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Directors and deputy directors (senior managers)	5	8	10	11	7
Specialists	5	1	3	3	3
All other staff	145	75	127	125	107
Total for year	155	84	140	139	117

Local Government Delivery Council

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* remit and *(b)* membership of the Local Government Delivery Council is. [279925]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Local Government Delivery Council (LGDC) drives forward local service transformation. It is part of local government's commitment to delivering services that meet the needs and expectations of citizens and businesses.

The LGDC provides a forum where national activity around transformation can be brought together, monitored and developed. The council was established in 2007 under the auspices of the Local Government Association (LGA). It held its first meeting in September 2007 and now meets quarterly.

Current members of the LGDC are as follows:

Local authority representatives

Janet Callender, Chair of LDC

Steve Baker, Chief Executive, Suffolk Coastal District Council, East of England region

Pat Harding, Corporate Director, Customer Service and Transformation, Cambridge County Council, East of England region

Dave Smith, Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council, North East region

Bill Murphy, Corporate Director of Resources, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, London region

Glyn Evans, Assistant Director on Transformation to the Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council, West Midlands region

Maura Brooks, Chief Officer for ICT, Leeds City Council, Yorkshire and Humberside region

Donna Hall, Chief Executive, Chorley Borough Council, North West region

David Hill, Chief Executive, Ashford Borough Council, South East region

Peter Sloman Chief Executive, Oxford City Council South East region

Caroline Tapster, Chief Executive, Hertfordshire County Council, East of England region

John Everitt, Chief Executive, Bath and North East Somerset, South West region

Lyn Martin-Bennison, Chief Executive, Borough Council of Wellingborough, East Midland region

Tim Rainey, Assistant Chief Executive Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, North West Region

Stakeholder representatives

Andrew Campbell Director, Local Strategic Partnerships and Performance, Communities and Local Government

Stephen Jones, Director for Finance, Local Government Association

Sarah Fogden, Deputy Director Service Transformation, Public Service Reform Unit, Cabinet Office

John Hayes, Director Local Government Services, IDeA

John Blundell, Deputy Director, Government Office Network/ Regional Coordination Unit

Siobhan Coughlan, Secretariat for LGDC, IDeA

Central Government departmental representatives

Tim O'Connor, Care and Efficiency Delivery Programme, Department of Health

Lyn McDonald, Tell Us Once Programme Director, Department for Work and Pensions

Trevor Huddlestone, Strategy Director, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Other representatives

Maggie Jones, Chief Executive, Children England

Regional Government: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the operating budget was of each regional Government office for *(a)* salaries, *(b)* accommodation, *(c)* non-salary expenditure and *(d)* non-cash expenditure in each year from 2001-02 to 2008-09. [278695]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The total operating budgets for 2001-02 and 2002-03 are included in the following table, though as this pre-dates our current accounting system we cannot provide the breakdown requested.

£000

GO	*2001-02*	*2002-03*
East	8,632	9,356
East Midlands	8,245	8,713
London	1,3161	14,039
North East	9,002	9,954
North West	15,345	15,524
South East	10,326	10,875
South West	10,667	11,861
West Midlands	10,296	10,663
Yorks and Humber	10,037	10,944

The operating budget cost figures for the Government Offices for financial years 2003-04 to 2008-09 are as shown in the following tables:

Salary costs

£000

GO	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East	7,984	9,506	9,972	9,559	8,513	8,010
East Midlands	8,130	9,042	9,438	9,016	8,063	7,892
London	10,845	13,684	13,619	12,940	11,972	11,415
North East	9,024	10,214	10,453	10,209	9,289	9,190
North West	10,709	12,380	12,669	12,502	11,216	10,462
South East	9,933	11,200	11,820	11,490	11,409	10,301
South West	9,396	10,934	11,174	10,549	9,869	9,160
West Midlands	9,234	10,008	9,967	9,736	9,477	9,531
Yorks and Humber	8,722	10,005	10,094	9,372	8,678	8,276

Accommodation

£000

GO	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East	2,730	3,155	2,493	2,372	2,179	58
East Midlands	1,118	1,491	1,601	1,508	1,288	10
London	3,235	4,001	3,983	4,054	3,863	40
North East	913	2,361	2,285	2,408	2,663	154
North West	3,063	3,885	3,190	3,223	3,266	8
South East	2,042	1,858	1,897	1,599	1,715	133
South West	1,975	3,206	3,337	3,619	3,892	19
West Midlands	2,081	3,354	3,072	4,265	4,917	53
Yorks and Humber	1,608	2,220	2,366	3,912	3,889	0

Note:

Re-organisation of the Government Office Network in 2008-09 has resulted in the centralisation of accommodation costs. These are managed centrally and are no longer a part of the GO budgets. The accommodation budget for 2008-09 (Gross) was £28,460,866.

Non-salary

£000

GO	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East	1,891	2,223	1,510	1,122	1,182	1,315
East Midlands	1,709	1,693	2,172	1,336	1,535	1,194
London	2,577	2,312	2,062	1,391	910	997
North East	2,233	1,785	1,162	991	725	1,371
North West	2,973	2,939	2,658	1,871	2,228	2,042
South East	2,130	1,894	1,667	1,379	557	581
South West	2,601	2,755	1,510	1,996	1,384	1,369
West Midlands	2,064	2,044	1,546	1,052	789	1,509
Yorks and Humber	1,955	1,996	1,885	2,056	1,037	1,039

Non-cash

£000

GO	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East	137	867	45	29	0	0
East Midlands	8	238	120	276	513	58
London	0	77	245	327	274	0
North East	3	76	137	201	143	0
North West	12	216	116	109	106	7
South East	6	72	131	125	125	2
South West	101	225	136	115	66	7
West Midlands	3	329	403	481	345	3
Yorks and Humber	13	30	85	93	143	0

Regional Government: Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* directors, *(b)* senior managers, *(c)* specialist and delivery managers and *(d)* executive support and administration staff there were in each regional Government office in each year from 2001-02 to 2008-09. [1] [278696]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Each of the nine Government offices in the English regions are led by a regional director who is supported by deputy regional directors and mainstream civil servants working in grades from grade 6 to administrative assistant. Consequently the figures quantify staff numbers by those grades.

Prior to 2003 the personnel management arrangements for senior civil service staff (regional directors and deputy regional directors) working within the network were the responsibility of their employing departments. Consequently GO network records are not available prior to 2003.

Based upon staff in post figures GO staff, including fixed term appointments, casual employees and those staff temporarily away from the office (eg on maternity leave or career break) in April of each year specified, the table below gives the figures requested.

Government office		*Regional directors*	*Deputy regional directors (senior management)*	*Grade 6—higher executive officer (specialist and delivery managers)*	*Executive officer—admin asst (executive and administrative support)*
East of England	2001-02	1	[1]—	86	102
	2002-03	1	[1]—	86	115
	2003-04	1	5	123	121
	2004-05	1	6	142	143
	2005-06	1	4	144	135
	2006-07	1	4	152	115

1.*[Official Report, 26 June 2009, Vol. 494, c. 5MC.]*

Government office		Regional directors	Deputy regional directors (senior management)	Grade 6—higher executive officer (specialist and delivery managers)	Executive officer—admin asst (executive and administrative support)
	2007-08	1	4	141	75
	2008-09	1	5	144	50
East Midlands	2001-02	1	[1]—	91	139
	2002-03	1	[1]—	113	137
	2003-04	1	4	133	150
	2004-05	1	5	158	148
	2005-06	1	3	160	135
	2006-07	1	4	146	120
	2007-08	1	7	124	87
	2008-09	1	7	119	77
London	2001-02	1	[1]—	158	153
	2002-03	1	[1]—	162	140
	2003-04	1	8	199	142
	2004-05	1	8	235	133
	2005-06	1	9	208	122
	2006-07	1	9	177	102
	2007-08	1	9	157	77
	2008-09	1	8	157	77
North East	2001-02	1	[1]—	102	160
	2002-03	1	[1]—	115	175
	2003-04	1	3	122	182
	2004-05	1	5	147	191
	2005-06	1	5	156	174
	2006-07	1	3	137	169
	2007-08	1	6	129	124
	2008-09	1	6	134	101
North West	2001-02	1	[1]—	148	240
	2002-03	1	[1]—	115	217
	2003-04	1	5	162	208
	2004-05	1	9	175	203
	2005-06	1	8	175	189
	2006-07	1	7	179	178
	2007-08	1	8	150	129
	2008-09	1	8	139	110
South East	2001-02	1	[1]—	122	146
	2002-03	1	[1]—	148	156
	2003-04	1	6	148	148
	2004-05	1	8	185	152
	2005-06	1	7	191	143
	2006-07	1	4	171	227
	2007-08	1	6	159	110
	2008-09	1	7	160	84
South West	2001-02	1	[1]—	110	158
	2002-03	1	[1]—	124	171
	2003-04	1	6	141	163
	2004-05	1	6	174	188
	2005-06	1	5	169	179

Government office		*Regional directors*	*Deputy regional directors (senior management)*	*Grade 6—higher executive officer (specialist and delivery managers)*	*Executive officer—admin asst (executive and administrative support)*
	2006-07	1	6	159	151
	2007-08	1	7	144	117
	2008-09	1	8	142	87
West Midlands	2001-02	1	[1]—	113	190
	2002-03	1	[1]—	112	179
	2003-04	1	5	128	205
	2004-05	1	6	144	193
	2005-06	1	2	145	185
	2006-07	1	4	132	151
	2007-08	1	4	128	121
	2008-09	1	4	138	97
Yorkshire and Humber	2001-02	1	[1]—	104	161
	2002-03	1	[1]—	107	168
	2003-04	1	7	118	164
	2004-05	1	7	154	162
	2005-06	1	5	150	153
	2006-07	1	7	142	139
	2007-08	1	8	116	114
	2008-09	1	9	117	91

[1] Information not available

Regional Ministers: Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the official engagements of *(a)* the Minister for London, *(b)* the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber, *(c)* the Minister for the South East, *(d)* the Minister for the North West, *(e)* the Minister for the East of England, *(f)* the Minister for the East Midlands, *(g)* the Minister for the South West, *(h)* the Minister for the North East and *(i)* the Minister for the West Midlands in their roles as regional ministers were between (i) 1 and 31 March, (ii) 1 and 30 April and (iii) 1 and 31 May 2009. [279569]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children went missing from care homes in each local authority area in each year from 1999 to 2003. [275226]

Dawn Primarolo: The information has been placed in the House Libraries.

Information on the number of looked after children that went missing from care homes was not collected in 1999 and 2000.

Children in Care: Personal Records

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 7 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 413W, on children in care: personal records, what penalties local authorities may incur for not keeping children's records for the required amount of time. [276649]

Dawn Primarolo: Where a local authority failed to comply with regulations by not keeping children's records for the required time, then the person(s) whose records were lost would be entitled to take legal action to seek whatever redress is judged to be appropriate from the authority concerned.

Children: Abuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many representations he has received on the allegations of child abuse at Kendall House. [271015]

Dawn Primarolo: Since August 2008, the Department has received 42 emails and two letters related to allegations of abuse at Kendall House.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of days taken to pay an invoice by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies was in each month since November 2008. [279524]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold readily available information on the average number of days to pay an invoice. This information cannot be extracted from existing payment performance data without incurring disproportionate cost to the Department.

However, the following table shows the proportion of all invoices paid by the Department within 10 working days, following the announcement by the Prime Minister in October 2008.

Date	*Number of invoices*	*Percentage*
November 2008	3,588	91.6
December 2008	3,712	90.1
January 2009	3,629	91.8
February 2009	4,195	92.5
March 2009	5,500	93.2
April 2009	3,947	84.1
May 2009	3,061	92.0

The Department does not have any executive agencies.

Family Courts: Grandparents

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* recent discussions he has had and *(b)* discussions he has planned with the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service on ensuring that family court proceedings include the examination of the relationship between grandparents and children. [278456]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has had no discussions with the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) on the issue of the relationship between grandparents and children in court proceedings and none are planned on this issue.

CAFCASS has a statutory remit to ensure that the best interests of the child are protected and that children are not put at risk. It is for local authorities to explore kinship care and placements with the wider family in public law care cases and for CAFCASS to explore whether extended family placement options have been properly considered and assessed.

CAFCASS, in family court cases, often need to consider the relevance of a child's attachment to one or more grandparents and to promote both contact and residence options where these are in the child's best interests.

Rehabilitation: Lincolnshire

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 20 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1434W, on rehabilitation: Lincolnshire, how much of the *(a)* £24.7 million and *(b)* matched additional funds for drugs and alcohol treatment is being provided for residential treatment for under-18s. [279298]

Dawn Primarolo: That information is not held centrally. The £24.7 million pooled treatment budget is allocated to local authorities to enable them to commission treatment services according to the local needs of young people. Additional funds from the Primary Care Trust and the Area Based Grant are also used to fund specialist treatment services where appropriate.

For the vast majority of young people under 18 community-based services are the most appropriate option. There are a total of 35 residential places available across the country that is able to support young people with substance misuse and other complex needs. In addition, local authorities can arrange a package of support that combines specialist drug treatment with specialist children's home, fostering places or other supported accommodation.

Schools: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Government allocated to increasing parental engagement in schools in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point in each year since 1997. [279337]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to supporting parental engagement. That support can take many forms at a local level, such as targeted support and family learning. In the Children's Plan: Progress Report published in December 2008 we outlined further measures to support parents, schools and early years settings in engaging parents as partners in their children's learning—comprising action to support parents and to prioritise parental engagement throughout the education system.

It is important that support for parental engagement is embedded in the day to day work of professionals in schools and early years settings and is established as part of the core business of those organisations.

This means a variety of funding routes should be used to support parental engagement. However, the main initiatives that cover parental engagement in schools are extended services including parent support advisors and family learning interventions.

Because parental engagement is only one element of extended services and decisions are made locally about spending and priorities, it is only possible to give overall government funding on these programmes for this area. Details of funding for these programmes since their inception are set out in the following table.

It is not possible to provide figures for Castle Point as it is a district of Essex and funding is only provided to local authorities.

	Extended services[1]	*Family learning*[2]
Essex		
2003-04[3]	n/a	0
2004-05	n/a	0
2005-06	1,949,295	0
2006-07	3,797,326	0
2007-08	4,667,039	0
2008-09	5,172,358	44,541
2009-10	7,514,337	—
2010-11	6,190,553	—

[1] Is made up of start up, sustainability and subsidy funding. Subsidy funding is only in 2008 to 2010 and has not been allocated for 2010 yet. The sustainability line includes funding for PSAs from 2008 onwards.

[2] Allocation for 2009 onwards has not been decided yet.

[3] The funding from 2003 to 2006 is for full service extended schools and includes allocation for start up, co-ordinators and child care.

Schools: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated to increasing parental engagement in schools in *(a)* Crosby and *(b)* Merseyside in each year since 1997. [278907]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to supporting parental engagement. That support can take many forms at a local level, such as targeted support and family learning. In the Children's Plan: Progress Report published in December 2008 we outlined further measures to support parents, schools and early years settings in engaging parents as partners in their children's learning—comprising action to support parents and to prioritise parental engagement throughout the education system.

It is important that support for parental engagement is embedded in the day to day work of professionals in schools and early years settings and is established as part of the core business of those organisations.

This means a variety of funding routes should be used to support parental engagement. However, the main initiatives that cover parental engagement in schools are extended services including parent support advisors and family learning interventions.

Because parental engagement is only one element of extended services and decisions are made locally about spending and priorities, it is only possible to give overall government funding on these programmes for this area. Details of funding for these programmes since their inception is set out in the following table.

	Extended services[1]	*Family learning*[2]
Sefton		
2003-04[3]	213,000	0
2004-05	143,000	0
2005-06	500,603	0
2006-07	959,510	0
2007-08	1,184,746	0
2008-09	1,283,292	39,123
2009-10	1,815,975	—
2010-11	1,393,927	—
Merseyside		
2003-04[3]	1,756,568	0
2004-04	1,639,568	0
2005-06	2,497,193	0
2006-07	5,034,181	0
2007-08	6,711,863	0
2008-09	8,180,183	305,850
2009-10	11,050,076	—
2010-11	7,539,961	—

[1] Is made up of start up, sustainability and subsidy funding. Subsidy funding is only in 2008 to 2010 and has not been allocated for 2010 yet.

[2] Allocation for 2009 onwards has not been decided yet.

[3] The funding from 2003 to 2006 is for full service extended schools and includes allocation for start up, co-ordinators and child care.

Schools: Parents

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated towards increasing parental engagement in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire and *(b)* the East of England schools in each year since 1997. [278567]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to supporting parental engagement. That support can take many forms at a local level such as targeted support and family learning. In the Children's Plan: Progress Report published in December 2008 we outlined further measures to support parents, schools and early years settings in engaging parents as partners in their children's learning—comprising action to support parents and to prioritise parental engagement throughout the education system.

It is important that support for parental engagement is embedded in the day to day work of professionals in schools and early years settings and is established as part of the core business of those organisations.

This means a variety of funding routes should be used to support parental engagement. However, the main initiatives that cover parental engagement in schools are extended services including parent support advisors and family learning interventions.

Because parental engagement is only one element of extended services and decisions are made locally about spending and priorities, it is only possible to give overall Government funding on these programmes for this area. Details of funding for these programmes since their inception is set out in the following table.

	Extended Services[1]	*PSA pilot*[2]	*Family Learning*[3]
Bedfordshire (until 31 March 2009)			
2003-04[4]	0	n/a	0
2004-05	0	n/a	0
2005-06	673,807	n/a	0
2006-07	1,118,420	n/a	0
2007-08	1,434,510	n/a	0
2008-09	1,758,593	n/a	74,283
2009-10	0	n/a	—
Bedford (from 1 April 2009)			
2003-04[4]	n/a	n/a	0
2004-05	n/a	n/a	0
2005-06	n/a	n/a	0
2006-07	n/a	n/a	0
2007-08	n/a	n/a	0
2008-09	n/a	n/a	0
2009-10	1,041,440	n/a	0
Central Bedford (from 1 April 2009)			
2003-04[4]	n/a	n/a	0
2004-05	n/a	n/a	0
2005-06	n/a	n/a	0
2006-07	n/a	n/a	0
2007-08	n/a	n/a	0
2008-09	n/a	n/a	0
2009-10	1,447,256	n/a	0
GO East			
2003-04[4]	282,000	n/a	0
2004-05	1,761,270	n/a	0
2005-06	8,648,274	n/a	0
2006-07	16,219,812	956,907	0
2007-08	20,187,890	1,913,815	0
2008-09	25,318,893	664,700	684,460

	Extended Services[1]	*PSA pilot*[2]	*Family Learning*[3]
2009-10	35,682,140	0	—

[1] Is made up of start up, sustainability and subsidy funding. Subsidy funding is only in 2008-10 and has not been allocated for 2010 yet. The sustainability line includes funding for PSAs from 2008 onwards.
[2] The pilot ran until September 2008.
[3] Some of the funding for Bedfordshire is being utilised in the Mid Bedfordshire geographical area (along with the South Bedfordshire District and Bedford Borough areas) but it would be very difficult to identify exactly how much. Allocation for 2009 onwards has not been decided yet.
[4] The funding from 2003-06 is for Full Service Extended Schools and includes allocation for start-up, co-ordinators and child care.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's aid programme for Afghanistan is planned to be channelled through *(a)* the Afghan national government, *(b)* Afghan regional governments, *(c)* Afghan non-governmental organisations, *(d)* international non-governmental organisations and *(e)* provincial reconstruction teams in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [278643]

Mr. Michael Foster: The approximate planned allocations for 2009-10 are 59 per cent. through the Afghan National Government; 8 per cent. through Afghan non-governmental organisations; 24 per cent. through international non-governmental organisations; and 7 per cent. through the provincial reconstruction teams. The Department for International Development (DFID) does not pass funding directly through provincial governments.

Most of our development assistance provided to the Afghan National Government goes through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), which is managed by the World Bank. Its systems are audited by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The ARTF reimburses the Afghan Government only upon proof of legitimate expenditure.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average number of days taken to pay an invoice by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its executive agencies was in each month since November 2008. [279322]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: As of 12 June 2009, the average number of days taken by the Department for International Development (DFID), to pay an invoice in each month since November 2008 is shown in the following table:

Date	*Number of invoices*	*Average number of days to make payment*
November 2008	1,905	10
December 2008	1,891	11
January 2009	2,677	7
February 2009	2,061	8
March 2009	2,191	12
April 2009	1,872	9
May 2009	1,634	6

DFID has no executive agencies.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answers of 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1131W, on overseas aid, and 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 265W, on sub-Saharan Africa: malaria, for what reasons data on the levels of demand for bed nets are no longer available by country. [278613]

Mr. Michael Foster: Data on levels of actual demand, at community level, by country are not available. The wording of earlier answers did not make a clear distinction between this and demand levels for procurement purposes.

As stated in the answer of 24 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 265W, the World Malaria Report, issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in September 2008 (which can be found at http://www.who.int/malaria/wmr2008/malaria2008.pdf) includes detailed data on levels of bed-net ownership, usage and coverage by country.

For procurement purposes, the demand for insecticide treated bed nets is estimated using routine epidemiological and population data collected by national malaria control programmes. However, data on demand at community level are not routinely collected and to do so would be impractical given the financial and human resource constraints available in poorer developing countries.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has received requests from the Zimbabwean government for financial support; and what the Government's policy on such support is. [278633]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Inclusive Government of Zimbabwe has made a number of formal and informal requests for financial support to its international partners, including the UK.

The UK has committed an additional £15 million for humanitarian and other essential budget priorities including health, water and sanitation and agricultural inputs. Some of this support will be used for additional technical assistance to help the new Government address priorities for reform. At present, none of this support is channelled through Government systems.

The UK Government are entirely committed to supporting the people of Zimbabwe on the path towards reform. As I said on 23 April when announcing our additional support:

> "The creation of a more inclusive government represents a real opportunity for much needed change. We welcome efforts by the new Government to deliver economic, social and political reform. Credible progress will attract increasing support from donors and other partners to tackle the root causes of Zimbabwe's problems."

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the level of the budget deficit of the Zimbabwean government in the current financial year; and what recent discussions he has had with the Zimbabwean government on its financial position. [278634]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: According to a report from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) following its March 2009 Article IV mission to Zimbabwe, the Inclusive Government has made significant progress in stabilising a very difficult economic situation. The report also pointed to a potential budget deficit of around $200 million in 2009.

The UK Government have been at the forefront of efforts by the international community to monitor and respond to the financial and technical needs of the Inclusive Government during this difficult transition period. Following discussions with the Zimbabwean Minister of Finance, I announced in April this year a £15 million package of UK support for key government priorities, including assistance to health systems, water and sanitation and smallholder farming. At present, none of this support is channelled through Government systems.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been (i) disciplined and (ii) dismissed for (A) breaches of data protection requirements and (B) inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last 12 months. [278722]

Paul Goggins: There have been no such cases.

The Northern Ireland Office has clear policies and processes in place to ensure that staff understand the importance of data security and data confidentiality and to ensure that any cases of potential data loss can be properly dealt with.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* conference services and *(b)* banqueting services in each of the last five years. [274500]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) records expenditure for conferences and banquets under the description of hospitality or catering. Due to the high volume of transactions within these expenditure areas it would be possible to extract the costs requested only at disproportionate cost.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Environment Protection: Transport

Nadine Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding his Department has allocated to encourage take up of environmentally-friendly means of transportation in *(a)* Mid Bedfordshire constituency and *(b)* the East of England since it was established; and if he will make a statement. [278843]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

Funding provided by the Department for Transport (DfT) to local transport authorities is not generally ring-fenced and local authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities. Figures are not available at constituency level.

The Department provides integrated transport block and highways maintenance funding to local transport authorities to support capital investment in transport, which may be used for a range of purposes as the authorities see fit. Allocations provided to Bedfordshire county council and the eastern region, since 1997, are shown in the following table.

(£ millions)

	Bedfordshire	*Eastern Region*
2008-09	9.286	157.771
2007-08	7.751	159.476
2006-07	9.573	157.826
2005-06	9.351	156.899
2004-05	8.001	156.586
2003-04	7.364	141.735
2002-03	6.591	140.193
2001-02	7.147	137.774
2000-01	4.017	56.608
1999-2000	4.602	52.125
1998-99	3.070	32.150
1997-98	3.692	41.203

Note:
Since 2000 the allocations comprise integrated transport block grant and highways maintenance. Prior to 2000 the allocations are in the form of gross approved spending.

Revenue expenditure on transport is generally supported through the Department for Communities and Local Government's Formula Grant.

In addition to this funding, DfT has made some funding available specifically to support cycling. In 2007-08 and 2008-09, DfT provided £6,720 and £32,000 respectively to Bedfordshire county council to fund cycling training. In 2009-10, following the local authority boundary changes, Bedford borough are due to receive £28,000, and central Bedfordshire £35,240 to fund 700 and 881 training places respectively.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Letter from Mel Groves: [249409]

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking, with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, Official Report, column 1980W, on Jobcentre Plus: manpower, for a description of each job in Jobcentre Plus in each pay grade. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Whilst certain roles within many operational posts in Jobcentre Plus are standard, the mix of roles within each job can vary.

By way of example, there are approximately 50 individual Job Role descriptors for a Jobcentre, which all Jobcentres would cover. Many Jobcentres therefore will have less than 50 employees and instead will establish posts (or jobs) that cover a range of these roles and responsibilities in a variety of permutations. Each manager will in turn set an individual set of objectives for each job holder. Similarly, non operational jobholders within functions such as Projects, Finance and Planning cover roles that are also not standard. Many of these jobholders will necessarily have individual descriptions. This variety and volume of jobs means that a description of every job in every grade is not available.

Instead, we have established over 200 Job Role descriptors covering operational roles, broken down by grade. I have listed these in Annex 1. The descriptors will be placed in the Library.

I hope this information is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Letter from Ruth Owen: [264352]

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cardiff of 10 March 2009 on Jobseeker's Allowance, what quantitative and qualitative evaluation has been undertaken of the extent to which signposting takes place and the outcome it achieves. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mel Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. Mel Groves is currently on Annual Leave and I am replying in his absence.

Signposting customers to appropriate agencies, for advice and support including debt and financial management, is an integral part of the service offered by Jobcentre Plus staff. Jobcentre Plus interacts with over 100,000 members of the public every working day. Where such referrals arise from a work focused interview with a Personal Adviser. It would quite naturally be followed up at subsequent interviews.

Jobcentre Plus does not carry out the specific types of evaluation asked for in your question. However it does signpost customers, and there is a Quality Assurance Framework, which is used by managers to assess the performance of our advisers.

Individual Personal Advisers are assessed using a Quality Assurance Framework. This helps to make sure our advisory services are effective, efficient and of consistently high quality. It is a framework for regularly reviewing adviser functions that allows us to reward and recognise good performance as well as identify where performance can be improved and making improvements where necessary. One of the criteria we look for is an understanding of the range and detail of support available through external partners. We expect our Personal Advisers to act as the customer's advocate through a range of contracted/non-contracted provision and services.

Ministerial Corrections

Monday 1 June 2009

TREASURY

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 197W, on departmental personnel, how many of the pre-surplus staff classified as such upon return from maternity leave; and how many of the pre-surplus staff have been classified as such for at least *(a)* six months and *(b)* 12 months. [250116]

[Official Report, 28 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 589-90W.]

Letter of correction from Stephen Timms:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 28 January 2009. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Timms: The current number of pre-surplus staff (23 January 2009) is 2,849. The number of pre-surplus staff on maternity leave is 15. The total number of staff pre-surplus for at least six months is 1,071 and there are 661 who have been pre-surplus for more than 12 months.

HEALTH

Drugs: Babies

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were drug dependent at birth in each region in each of the last five years; and what the numbers of such children in the case of each type of drug were. [271664]

[Official Report, 6 May 2009, Vol. 492, c. 202-204W.]

Letter of correction from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the second table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 6 May 2009. I am sorry that two of the figures given as the totals for the years 2005-06 and 2004-05 were incorrect.

The correct table is as follows:

Counts of FCEs with a primary or secondary diagnosis of neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs by SHA of residence for the period 2003-04 and 2005-06

	Total finished consultant birth episodes		
SHA of residence	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge SHA	*	*	*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	12	16	10
Essex SHA	0	8	*
North West London SHA	11	11	11
North Central London SHA	12	13	*
North East London SHA	*	0	*
South East London SHA	*	*	*
South West London SHA	*	0	*
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	6	*	*
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	17	30	40
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	23	27	45
West Yorkshire SHA	12	11	27
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	7	12	16
Greater Manchester SHA	10	8	11
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	54	63	40
Thames Valley SHA	7	*	*
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	*	9	7
Kent and Medway SHA	0	*	*
Surrey and Sussex SHA	13	11	13
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	62	40	44
South West Peninsula SHA	17	17	10
Dorset and Somerset SHA	28	8	9
South Yorkshire SHA	*	*	*
Trent SHA	6	8	10
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	21	*	0
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	13	6	12
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	*	*	*
West Midlands South SHA	*	0	6
Other and unknown	860	873	817
Total	1,210	1,192	1,156

Notes:

1. ICD-10 diagnosis codes used:
P96.1 Neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction.
P96.2 Withdrawal symptoms form therapeutic use of drugs in newborn.
2. Low numbers: Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk).
3. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 3 June 2009

DEFENCE

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fast jet aircraft of each type there are in *(a)* the Royal Air Force and *(b)* the forward fleet; and how many are fit for purpose. [265141]

[Official Report, 24 March 2009, Vol. 490, c. 271-72W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Bob Ainsworth:

An error has been identified in the table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 24 March 2009. The total fleet entry for the Hawk T1 was incorrect. The correct answer is as follows:

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of fast jet aircraft in the RAF, forward fleet and those fit for purpose are provided in the table. The figures shown are a snapshot of the position on 28 February 2009.

Aircraft type	*Total fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*
Typhoon	53	35	20
Tornado GR4	138	81	61
Tornado F3	69	35	26
Harrier	74	49	44
Hawk T1	129	80	68
Hawk T2	6	0	0

The number of aircraft in the forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short-term unserviceable. Short term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day-to-day basis. Serviceable aircraft available to the front line commands for operational and training purposes are termed fit for purpose. Aircraft which are undergoing major servicing or routine maintenance are within the depth fleet and are therefore not relevant to this question.

Although delivery of six Hawk T2 has been accepted they have not yet been released to service.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force aircraft of each type are *(a)* in service, *(b)* in the forward air fleet and *(c)* fit for purpose. [269167]

[Official Report, 23 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 812-14W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Quentin Davies:

Errors have been identified in the table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 23 April 2009. Certain entries relating to the aircraft types Dominie, Hawk T1, Sentinel, Tucano and Viking were incorrect. The correct answer is as follows:

Mr. Quentin Davies: The numbers of aircraft of each type which are in service, in the forward fleet and fit for purpose are provided in the following table. The figures shown are the average for February 2009 and have been rounded to the nearest aircraft.

"In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet, which covers all aircraft barring those which are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

The number of aircraft in the forward fleet comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short-term unserviceable. Short term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day-to-day basis. Serviceable aircraft available to the front-line commands for operational and training purposes are termed fit for purpose.

Aircraft type	*In service fleet*	*Forward fleet*	*Fit for purpose*
BAe 146	2	1	1
BAe 125	6	4	4
C-17	6	5	4
Dominie	9	8	4
Harrier	74	49	44
Hawk T1	129	88	53
Hercules C130K	15	11	6
Hercules C130J	24	19	12
Nimrod MR2	14	10	4
Nimrod R1	3	1	1
Sea King	25	17	10
Sentinel	5	3	2
Sentry	7	5	4
Tornado F3	69	33	29
Tornado GR4	138	84	66
Tristar	8	6	4
Tucano	95	55	28
Typhoon	53	35	20
VC10	16	13	8
Vigilant	64	63	44
Viking	82	65	60

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 4 June 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

National Assessment Agency

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what meetings took place between the Minister for Schools and officials at the National Assessment Agency during 2008. [245828]

[Official Report, 20 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 248W.]

Letter of correction from Jim Knight:

An error has been identified in the final paragraph of the written answer given to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr. Gibb) on 20 April 2009. The original answer referred to meetings that I held with officials from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on 6 February, 18 March, 6 August, 14 August and 15 September. The full correct answer should have been:

Jim Knight: I met with David Gee, managing editor of the then National Assessment Agency (NAA), on 17 June and with David Gee and Ken Boston, chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), on 2 July. I also met Ken Boston on 3 July. These meetings related to the delivery of national curriculum tests in 2008. As set out in Lord Sutherland's report, there were regular meetings between senior officials in the Department, QCA and NAA as part of the governance arrangements explained in the report to monitor QCA's delivery of its remit.

I also met with officials from QCA on 6 February, 6 August, 14 August and 15 September to discuss matters relating to QCA's wider agenda.

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 10 June 2009

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Eyesight

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female recruits to the Royal Navy Air Crew Pilot Branch were accepted with myopia of (i) -0.75 exactly, (b) less than -0.75 and (c) more than -0.75 are in both eyes in the last 12 months; and what the required eyesight standards for similar disciplines in other parts of the armed forces. [274348]

[Official Report, 20 May 2009, Vol. 492, c. 1413W.]

Letter of correction from Kevan Jones:

Errors have been identified in the table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon) on 20 May 2009.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of male and female recruits to the Royal Navy Air Crew Pilot Branch accepted with myopia in both eyes in the last 12 months are provided as follows.

	Exactly -0.75	*Less than -0.75*	*More than -0.75*
Male	1	9	0
Female	0	0	0

The Aircrew Entry Visual Standard for myopia of -0.75 is common across all three services. However the nature of secondary duties undertaken by Royal Navy personnel requires their pilots to pass an additional colour perception test.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 11 June 2009

TREASURY

Taxation: Pensioners

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 February 2004, *Official Report*, columns 1489-90W, on pensions (taxation), if he will estimate the number of pensioners paying income tax at the *(a)* higher and *(b)* basic rate in each year since 2001-02; and what percentage of (i) all pensioner taxpayers and (ii) all pensioners these figures represent in each year. [264595]

[Official Report, 23 March 2009, Vol. 490, c. 95W.]

Letter of correction from Ian Pearson:

Errors have been identified in the tables that were presented in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 23 March 2009. Both tables contained two entries for the year 2003-04. The final entry for the year 2007-08 in the first table for higher rate taxpayers was incorrect, and the final three entries for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the second table were also incorrect.

The correct answer is as follows:

Ian Pearson: The information requested is in the following tables.

Higher rate taxpayers

	Number of pensioners paying HR income tax (thousand)	*Proportion of all pensioner taxpayers (percentage)*	*Proportion of all pensioners (percentage)*
2001-02	210	4	2
2002-03	220	4	2
2003-04	230	5	2
2004-05	290	6	3
2005-06	300	6	3
2006-07	330	6	3
2007-08	370	6	3

Non-higher rate taxpayers

	Number of pensioners paying non-HR income tax (thousand)	*Proportion of all pensioner taxpayers (percentage)*	*Proportion of all pensioners (percentage)*
2001-02	4,570	96	42
2002-03	4,700	96	43
2003-04	4,470	95	41
2004-05	4,830	95	43
2005-06	4,790	94	43
2006-07	5,250	94	46
2007-08	5,420	94	47

Notes:

1. Figures up to 2006-07 are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes in that year.
2. Figures for 2007-08 are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes in 2006-07 projected forward one year in line with Pre-Budget 2008 report.
3. Figures for the number of pensioners paying income tax have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
4. Pensioners have been defined as men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over.
5. All pensioners figures are mid-year population estimates supplied by the Office for National Statistics.